

STARS AND STRIPES®

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back with more,
more, more**
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and then some for
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Joey
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Volume 2, No.344 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2005

GIs kill 26 rebels in weekend battle

Single attack yields highest insurgent death toll in four months

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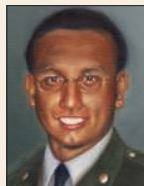
LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Annette Polan shows the portrait she painted of Spc. Brandon Tobler, 19, of Portland, Ore., who was killed March 22, 2003, when his Humvee crashed during a blinding sandstorm while his unit was moving from Kuwait to Baghdad. Polan said she calls Tobler "my baby ... a young prince." Tobler's portrait and the portraits of 1,326 other troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan are part of the "Faces of the Fallen" exhibit.

‘Re-humanizing’ the fallen

Exhibit uses painted portraits to
capture the souls of U.S. forces
killed in Iraq, Afghanistan

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Army Spc. Rasheed Sahib



Navy Lt. Thomas M. Adams



Army Pfc. Melissa J. Hobart

Photos courtesy of "Faces of the Fallen"

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49-6155-601-455
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Immigrant smuggling case: Houston jurors began deliberations Monday on charges that Tyrone Williams let more than a dozen illegal immigrants die in the back of his unventilated truck because he was greedy.

Williams, a Jamaican citizen, is accused of driving and abandoning a trailer at the center of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt. His attorneys argued that he couldn't hear the immigrants' screams for help. If convicted, Williams could be executed for his role in the May 2003 smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 15 illegal immigrants. He faces 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting illegal immigrants. The jury of five men and seven women got the case late Friday, then got a weekend recess.

Feet-washing controversy: Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley has decided to wash the feet of both women and men during this year's Holy Thursday foot-washing ritual, a year after angering Catholic women by washing only men's feet.

O'Malley decision, which came after consulting with the Vatican, drew immediate praise from advocates for a greater role for women in the Catholic Church.

The U.S. bishops conference in 1987 declared that it had become customary for both sexes to participate in the ritual.

Colo. lodge fire: Authorities are fearing the worst after a search came up empty for three missing children believed to be among the victims of a powerful blast that leveled a secluded mountain lodge and injured dozens.

Fire investigators were expected to return to the Electric Mountain Lodge on Monday. Officials had not determined what triggered the explosion, but said it may have been caused by propane gas used to heat the site.

Sharpton vs. violent music: The Rev. Al Sharpton, who is mounting a campaign against violence in rap music, said he is planning to buy stock in record companies that produce hip hop, then become vocal as a stockholder.

"I don't think too many CEOs want to see me come into his stockholders' meeting to say they're not doing enough to stop the violence," Sharpton told the New York Daily News for Monday editions, though he did not say how much stock he plans to buy or from which company.

Fla. girl's death: At Jessica Lunsford's church in Homosassa, Fla., the Rev. William LaVerle Coats asked his congregation to do the nearly impossible: Forgive the convicted sex offender accused of sexually assaulting and then killing the 9-year-old girl.

Yet as more details emerged about the child's abduction and death, her father said he wanted nothing more than to personally make out justice to the man suspected in the crimes.

His daughter, Jessica Marie Lunsford, was snatched from her home last month by a registered sex offender who entered through an unlocked door and later sexually assaulted her, officials said after examining her body.



Nepal demonstrations: Riot police detain activists of the Nepali Congress Party during Sunday's anti-Gyendra demonstration in Kathmandu, Nepal. Kirtinidhi Bista, vice chairman of the Cabinet, said Monday that Nepal's royal government could soon end a state of emergency imposed after it seized power in the Himalayan kingdom last month, opening the way for a restoration of civil liberties. Bista, the No. 3 official in the royal Cabinet headed by King Gyendra, refused to specify when the emergency rule would be lifted.

Business

Rising gas prices: Nationwide gas prices soared more than 12 cents during the past two weeks to reach a record high, and an analyst predicted more sticker shock at the pump in the days ahead.

Prices should continue to rise in the next few weeks on strong demand and supply problems caused by the transition to cleaner-burning gasoline mixtures as summer approaches, said Tribby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations across the country.

World

No bail for Madrid suspect: A British judge refused bail Monday in London for a man wanted in Spain for alleged involvement in last year's Madrid train bombings and ordered the suspect to remain in detention until another hearing next week.

Moutaz Almalah Dabas, 39, attended the hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in central London but spoke only to confirm his name and date of birth. He was arrested Saturday for alleged terrorist offenses linked to the March 11, 2004, Madrid bombings.

ETA election involvement: Spanish police have found links between the armed Basque separatist group ETA and activists seeking to replace a banned pro-independence party in Basque regional elections next month, a newspaper said on Monday.

The Supreme Court outlawed the Batasuna party in 2003 on grounds that it was part of ETA, classified as a terrorist organization by Spain, the European Union and the United States.

Italian railroad strike: Italian railway

workers pressing for improved safety staged a strike Monday that was expected to disrupt the busy Easter holiday week travel period.

Service was guaranteed on long-distance hauls, Italy's state railways said. Travel is expected to be heavy during the week as schools close down for Easter holidays and tourists pour into Rome for Holy Week ceremonies.

Schroeder backs Wolfowitz: Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Monday signaled that Germany will support Paul Wolfowitz's candidacy to head the World Bank, arguing that the world may be "positively surprised" by the U.S. deputy defense secretary's performance.

President Bush last week put forward Wolfowitz — a principal architect of the Iraq war, which Schroeder opposed strongly — as his choice to take over from World Bank President James Wolfensohn.

West Bank negotiations: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reached agreement Monday on handing over control of the West Bank town of Tulkarem to Palestinian security forces, Israeli defense officials said.

The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the two sides would sign an agreement later in the day, and the pullout would begin shortly thereafter.

Tulkarem would be the second of five West Bank towns to be handed over to the Palestinians.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

A photo in Monday's edition incorrectly identified U.S. Sens. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., and Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

Comics, horoscopes and advice —
every day in Stars and Stripes

U.S. troops kill 26 militants outside Baghdad

Unusually large number of rebels attacked convoy

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops killed 26 militants in a clash Sunday — the highest, single-incident insurgent death toll reported in four months, the U.S. military said.

Late Sunday, an American convoy was attacked with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades, sparking the clash that killed 26 militants.

Between 40 and 50 militants opened fire on military police and artillery units from the Kentucky National Guard as the Americans traveled along a road 20 miles

southeast of Baghdad that has seen a recent increase in violence.

Six soldiers and seven militants were wounded, and one person was arrested. It was one of the largest battles since the Jan. 30 election.

In December, coalition forces killed 25 insurgents who launched a coordinated attack on a U.S. checkpoint. The insurgents detonated a truck bomb and attacked in groups of 10 to 12 before the Americans called in airstrikes by F-18 and F-16 fighter jets.

The higher death toll Sunday was attributed to the unusually large number of attackers, who often travel in smaller bands or employ hidden explosives.

After Sunday's attack, troops recovered six RPG launchers, 16 rockets, 13 machine guns, 22 assault weapons, more than 2,900 rounds of ammunition, and 40 hand grenades from their attackers.

Insurgent attacks across Iraq on Sunday left seven civilians and three Iraqi soldiers dead.

In the deadliest attack Monday on civilians, a roadside bomb killed four women and three children in Aziziyah, 35 miles southeast of Baghdad, police Capt. Fahal al-Muhammadi said.

An Iraqi soldier was killed in Sherqat, 160 miles north of Baghdad, when a mortar shell landed on his camp. Another soldier died and four others were wounded when an Iraqi army vehicle was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in western Baghdad, a Defense Ministry official said.

In Baghdad's Amiriyah neighborhood, gunmen in two speeding cars fired on an Iraqi army foot patrol, killing another soldier and wounding a third, police Capt. Talib Tamir said.

Nearby, the head of the Kazimiyah neighborhood police force, Col. Mowayad Farhan, escaped unhurt when gunmen opened fire on his car, police said. His driver, however, was seriously injured and hospitalized.

In Samarra, an explosives-laden pickup truck driven



Iraqi police gather at the scene Monday after gunmen opened fire on a police vehicle in the Kazimiyah section of Baghdad. Col. Mowayad Farhan, the head of the Kazimiyah neighborhood police force, escaped unhurt, but his driver was seriously injured.

by a suicide bomber went off prematurely near a hospital, wounding about a dozen civilians and damaging homes, police 1st Lt. Qassem Mohammed said.

Police also said the director of the Iraqi army's legal department in northern Kirkuk, Lt. Col. Hawas al-Bayati, was shot and critically injured late Sunday outside his home. Further south, troops killed two suspected terrorists and detained two others after they discovered the men digging holes along the road for hiding homemade bombs.

The U.S. military reported the death of a soldier, who was killed Sunday during action in restive Anbar province, which contains the flashpoint cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

It also said 10 men captured by Iraqi soldiers last week had confessed to staging a March 9 Baghdad car-bomb attack near the Agricultural Ministry and a hotel favored by Westerners. At least four people, including the attackers and a guard, were killed.

The Iraqi troops who carried out the March 18 raid seized two vehicles being rigged for detonation as well as four rockets and launchers, light weaponry, blank Iraqi passports and thousands of dollars in cash, the military said.

Monday's violence came as Iraq and neighboring Jordan engaged in a diplomatic spat, with each withdrawing a high-level representative in a growing dispute over Shiite Muslim claims that Jordan is failing to block militants from entering Iraq.

Sunday's diplomatic row erupted even as a Jordanian court sentenced in absentia Iraq's most-feared terrorist — a Jordan native — to a 15-year prison term.

As news emerged of the largely symbolic sentencing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who is at large, his al-Qaida in Iraq organization claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that killed a top anti-corruption official in the northern city of Mosul. Al-Zarqawi already has been sentenced to death twice by Jordan.

Sunday's events capped a week of rising tensions that included a protest in which Shiite demonstrators raised the Iraqi flag over the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad amid claims by the Shiite clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance that Jordan was allowing terrorists to slip into Iraq. The Iraqi banner continued to flutter above the embassy Monday.

"Iraqis are feeling very bitter over what happened. We decided, as the Iraqi government, to recall the Iraqi ambassador from Amman to discuss this," Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told The Associated Press.

Jordan acted first, when Foreign Minister Hani al-Mulqi announced his charge d'affaires in Baghdad had been recalled to Amman.

"We are hoping that the Iraqi police will devise a plan to protect the embassy," al-Mulqi said. "Meanwhile, we have asked the charge d'affaires to come back because he was living in the embassy."

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday at least 1,520 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,158 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians. The AP count is seven higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths. Italy has reported 21 deaths; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia have reported one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

- A soldier was killed Sunday when an explosive detonated near Kirkuk, Iraq.
- The latest identifications reported by the military:
- No identifications reported.

SEAL's court-martial set in alleged prisoner abuse

BY SETH HETTNER

The Associated Press

NAN DIEGO — In November 2003, Navy SEALs went after Iraqi Manadel al-Jamadi, a suspect in the bombing of Red Cross offices in Iraq that killed 12. The CIA apparently believed he knew the location of a pile of explosives.

On the night of Nov. 4, the SEALs burst into al-Jamadi's apartment outside Baghdad, subdued him after a struggle and whisked him back to their base. En route, the SEALs allegedly kicked and punched al-Jamadi and struck him with their rifles.

Lieutenant to remain unidentified during proceedings

They also posed for photos with the hooded and handcuffed prisoner.

The SEALs turned al-Jamadi over to the CIA. A few hours later, he was dead.

Court-martial proceedings were set to begin Monday for an unidentified SEAL lieutenant accused of punching the detainee in the arm and allowing his men to abuse the prisoner. The lieutenant faces charges of assault, dereliction of duty and conduct unbecoming an officer.

The Navy is taking extraordinary precautions to protect the identity of its terro-

ist-hunting SEALs, members of an elite force named for Sea, Air, Land. The lieutenant will be referred to only by the first letter of his last name, as will all SEAL personnel in the courtroom — a step experts on military law say is virtually unprecedented.

The SEALs acted as the CIA's warrant squad on dangerous "capture or kill" missions in Iraq, bursting into homes in the middle of the night and carting off suspects.

Documents obtained by The Associated

Press suggest that CIA personnel — not the SEALs — may be to blame for the prisoner's death. When he died at Abu Ghraib prison, al-Jamadi was suspended by the wrists, which were handcuffed behind his back — a position that has been condemned by human rights groups as torture, according to investigative files from the Army and the CIA's Office of Inspector General.

Nine SEALs and one sailor have been accused of abusing al-Jamadi and others. All but one of the cases has been handled in closed-door proceedings. Earlier this month, another lieutenant received a career-killing punitive letter of reprimand.

MIDEAST NOTEBOOK

Vince Little and Charlie Coon

Troops' plates piled high at Baqouba posts

Three times a day, Johnny Jameson puts out piles of meat, potatoes, eggs, cereal, pasta, vegetables, salads, donuts, fruit, cookies, cakes, ice cream, soda, juice and milk.

To those who take the words "all you can eat" seriously, he warns: "Don't blame it on us if you get fat."

Jameson, the food service supervisor at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq, knows of what he speaks. A soldier for 21 years, the retired sergeant first class now works for KBR, which contracts with the U.S. military for food and other services on many downrange bases.

His dining facility serves about 850 soldiers per meal, but puts out enough food to serve twice as many.

He sees some soldiers help themselves at breakfast to bacon, sausage and ham, plus eggs, pancakes and cereal, juice, milk and coffee, while also scooping up a few "health" bars and an ice cream cone on the way out.

Others, for dinner, pile onto their trays a cheeseburger, hot dog, slice of pizza and tater tots. Maybe a salad, too, for their conscience.

"We're here to take care of the soldier," Jameson said. "We don't have a limit on how much they can eat. If they want five pieces of chicken, we give them five. If they want 10, we give them 10."

For soldiers who spend long hours outside the gate, lumbering around in gear under a hot sun and burning calories, God bless 'em, he says. For those who gorge three times a day, he says choose



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Anthony Turner, left, of 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, gets a plate of food from Spc. William Blasinaque of Guymon, Okla., and 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, at one of the dining facilities at Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baqouba, Iraq. In the background is Spc. Dustin Chaney of Cocoa Beach, Fla. Chow halls and their all-you-can eat offerings help some soldiers pack on the pounds.

your variety and portions wisely, and offers this advice: "If you miss one meal a day, it's good for you," Jameson said. "If you go to the gym, and keep knocking it off, you'll be OK."

No more lowriders

Before leaving Fort Bragg, N.C., for a yearlong deployment to Camp Taji, Iraq, officials with the 3rd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division discovered a problem with their 13 Humvees.

All that extra armor tacked onto the vehicles — designed to protect soldiers from the dangers of Baghdad — was wearing down their 15-year-old suspension systems.

"All the weight is compressing the springs, making the Humvees ride real low," said Army Staff Sgt. Benjamin Bink of Pataksala, Ohio, shop foreman for the 3rd ARB. "So we're replacing the main suspension components. We ordered new ball joints, springs and shocks and brought them with us."

"It's something we're doing to

prevent breakdowns in the future."

Ground maintenance personnel will upgrade all 13 Humvees, he added, hoping to finish one a week.

Staff Sgt. Malcolm Knight of Charleston, S.C., a squad leader with the maintenance platoon, said 95 percent of the 3rd ARB's entire fleet is operational.

"Our job is to keep them rolling out of the motor pool," he said. "We make sure that if somebody goes out, they come back home. We don't want anybody stuck in the middle of gunfire because they're broke down."

Taji, minus 2 cobras

When the 39th Brigade Combat Team arrived at Camp Taji, Iraq, last April, the Little Rock, Ark.-based National Guard unit found a pretty dismal sight.

There were no paved roads, few living pods, the office buildings were dilapidated, there were huge piles of metal debris and stray dogs roaming everywhere on a post set up to support 2,000 soldiers. Officials had to move quickly to refine the infrastructure and provide suitable accommodations for 8,000 more.

"I thought this place was the world's largest salvage dump," said Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Chastain, the 39th BCT commander. "The place was a wreck when we first got here."

Dozens of garbage-filled warehouses also sat on the camp, located about 30 miles north of Baghdad. The trash had to be hauled off before soldiers could set up work stations, so the command hired Iraqi nationals to begin the process.

Inside one structure, however, they discovered more than just plain old rubbish.

"The Iraqis found two live cobras in there. That was definitely a shock," said Army Col. Mike Ross, the unit's deputy commander who also served as the Taji garrison head before a March 9 transfer of authority to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

"But they killed the snakes and got rid of them. We haven't seen any more since."

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Marines flow in and out of Iraq in massive turnover

BY JAMES JANEGA

The Chicago Tribune

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Each night for a month, helicopters or sometimes cargo planes have brought them — Marines, jarred and jetlagged from the two days of travel that took them from the United States through Germany and Kuwait.

The trip always ends the same, in Iraq's western desert, on hard plywood benches under piercing fluorescent lights in a warehouse, facing the square jaw of Cpl. Lynn Caskey of Omaha, Neb., and the simple greeting he has delivered to thousands of Marines in recent weeks: "Welcome to Al Asad. Welcome to Iraq."

And like that, the contest for Anbar, one of Iraq's most restive provinces, is handed to a new crop of Marines, joining a 2-year-old war now on its third full rotation of American troops.

Used to swapping battalions of

"If they're really paying attention, you can tell they haven't been here before. If they've been here before, they're trying to fall asleep."

Cpl. Lynn Caskey

About briefing new Marines at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq

a few hundred troops at a time, the Marines this spring are replacing an entire expeditionary force — an infantry division, an air wing and a support command.

Caskey delivers the rules of their brief stay at Al Asad Air Base with the clipped efficiency of a flight attendant describing safety procedures before takeoff.

"If they're really paying attention, you can tell they haven't been here before," he said as one group left to board a bus to the chilly tents that will be their transitional housing for the next few days. "If they've been here before, they're trying to fall asleep."

From the air base, once home

to Saddam Hussein's air force, the Marines are dispatched to lonely outposts throughout Anbar province, a largely unpopulated wasteland of rocky desert the size of South Carolina.

Few places feel the transition as keenly as Al Asad, the transportation hub that links Anbar province and the United States. At its peak a few weeks ago, up to 1,200 Marines moved in and out through the base each day.

Most of the fresh Marines already have passed through.

The Marines they will replace, veterans of seven months that include the November assault on Fallujah and ongoing operations

in Ramadi and elsewhere along the Euphrates River, will trickle home to bases in Southern California by the end of the month.

They sleep often and speak in hushed voices. At night, to pass the time, they watch DVDs on portable players and repack gear that has ballooned during their months in Iraq.

The Marines left their dusty outposts more than a week ago, and they may wait an interminable week longer in the relative comforts of Al Asad.

The base itself is a testament to the long occupation. It has a store that rivals a Wal-Mart, a gift shop and a barber shop. There are lawn chairs on the wooden decks of some buildings.

To the outgoing troops, it stokes impatience, too keen a reminder of what is waiting for them at home. For the incoming Marines — many expecting a war in full swing — the comfort is jarring.

Into this world, Marines fresh off a cargo plane from Kuwait and bound for Caskey's warehouse stepped into the night with empty rifles and darting eyes to find cigarettes, without helmets smoking cigarettes in nearby doorways. After Caskey's indoctrination, a bus took them to tents across base.

As departing Marines settled in for the night in a tent just a few feet away, the new arrivals stormed into their new home, heavy boots thumping on the wood floors. One boot found the wiring to the tent's single fluorescent light, snapped it, and plunged the new Marines into darkness and loud efforts at organization.

By the light of red and blue flashlights, things were sorted out.

Germany unit's war deployment pushed up

69th TSC is leaving two days early for Afghanistan mission

By STEVE MRAZ
Stars and Stripes

MANNEHEIM, Germany — Troops with the 69th Transportation Company thought they were leaving for their yearlong Afghanistan deployment on Wednesday.

Accordingly, the 80 soldiers planned to spend Monday and Tuesday lounging with their loved ones and taking care of last-minute details.

So when word came down around 1 a.m. Sunday that the unit would be deploying Monday afternoon, everyone started working double time.

Young troops rushed to get haircuts. Others hurried to complete power-of-attorney documents. Family members scrambled to make farewell posters that they had originally planned to craft together Monday evening, said Kim-Berly Kinnischitzke, family readiness group leader for the company.

"The initial shock affected some of the families," she said. "It really pushed us as far as the schedule."

For Spc. Charles Danner, the Sunday baptism of his 8-day-old daughter still took place in Schoenau, Germany, but under added pressure.

"It was rush, rush," Danner said. "You work with what you got. I guess."

First Sgt. Bryan Elder said he did not know why the unit's deployment date was moved forward. The unit, which falls under the 21st Theater Support Command, will be assigned to transport infantry within Afghanistan during its tour.

By July, the 21st TSC will have deployed about 1,100 troops to Afghanistan for its joint logistics command mission.

Applly nicknamed the "Roadrunners," the 69th could be faced with overcoming



Raymond



PHOTOS BY STEVE MRAZ/Stars and Stripes

Above: Spc. Jamaal Simmons with the 69th Transportation Company kisses his 6-year-old daughter, Daijsha, goodbye on Monday. Simmons and about 80 others from his unit deployed Monday for a yearlong Afghanistan tour. Below: Soldiers await their deployment inside the Coleman Barracks Gymnasium in Mannheim, Germany.

roadside bombs and vehicle ambushes in Afghanistan. Three months of on-the-job training in Grafenwöhr prepared the troops for their mission, Elder said.

"I feel confident in my unit," he said. "My main thing will be to tell the soldiers to take it one day at a time, one mission at a time."

Pfc. Daryl Raymond already has one mission in his mind he is confident he will accomplish. "I'm going to catch (Osama) bin Laden," the 21-year-old soldier said.

Raymond wants to get back to Germany in time to see the birth of his first child, due in October.

"I figure once I catch bin Laden, they'll let us come home faster," he said.

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Extended 'invisible deployments' challenge Benelux

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

CHIEFRES, Belgium — There was a time not too long ago when a soldier assigned to the Benelux was largely insulated from an extended deployment.

A tour of duty in this neck of the woods usually meant a lot of desk time. Duffel bags tended to get more dusty than dirty.

That's no longer the case.

"It isn't like it was in the old days of the Cold War, when they sat at their desks," said Army Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski, the 80th Area Support Group commander.

"It's not your granddaddy's NATO anymore," Nowowiejski added.

While they get scant attention, troops in the Benelux are going to Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere at a rate roughly proportionate to troops from many of the larger bases, he said. And when they depart their duty station to deploy, troops usually travel alone or in

small groups, without rousing speeches or falling confetti.

"I call them the invisible deployments," Nowowiejski said.

Last year, in response to the increase in travel, the 80th ASG and the 254th Base Support Battalion beefed up its Army Community Service staff.

Based in Schinnen, Netherlands, the support battalion hired a full-time deployment and mobilization program coordinator, began to reach out more to geographically separated units and bought more gear, such as Web cams, to bridge the distance between troops and families.

And like many of the larger bases in Germany and Italy, Schinnen now has professional counselors to assist servicemembers and their families.

"These guys and gals (in the military) need advocates, and that's what we are trying to do," said Katrina Yunt, the deployment program coordinator.

Ultimately, the 80th ASG and

254th BSB exist to support U.S. forces assigned to NATO, Nowowiejski said.

While only several hundred U.S. servicemembers are assigned to the Benelux region, more than 100 are currently deployed. They range from cargo transportation specialists in Rotterdam, Netherlands, to veterinarians and firefighters in Chieffres. In addition, an element of NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, based in Rheindahlen, Germany, is expected to go down-range soon, if it hasn't left already.

Since troops in the Benelux have no large housing area to speak of, most of them rent apartments on the local economy. That requires a degree of independence that can be liberating but also challenging for folks like Yunt because troops deploy alone or in small groups with little fanfare.

"We have to be in tune with the units," said Lt. Col. Richard S. Ri-

chardson, the 254th BSB commander. "The benefit is we can provide service on a more personal level."

But as much as officials try, they don't always know who is coming and going. Nowowiejski, for example, said he didn't learn Air Force firefighters had deployed to the Middle East until he heard it from someone at church. Though the personnel are not Army, Nowowiejski wants to be inclusive, given the nature of NATO.

To that end, the 80th ASG recently conducted a weeklong pre-deployment processing program specifically for U.S. troops assigned to NATO. The joint program went off without a hitch and drew members from each of the armed services.

"If I had to do this on my own," Navy Cmdr. Mark P. Businger said, "it would probably take me the better part of two or three days."

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KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Army Sgt. Lindsay Bjelke, left, received a shot from Spc. Erin Grant while updating her records at a weeklong predeployment processing session for U.S. servicemembers, especially those assigned to NATO.

The souls, the lives behind the numbers

Artists connect to U.S. troops killed in combat with portraits

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

Spc. Brandon Tobler, an Army reservist from Portland, Ore., grew up with one mom.

But now that Tobler's life has ended — cut short at age 19 in a vehicle crash during a blinding sandstorm in Iraq on March 22, 2003 — the young soldier has two moms: his birth mother, and Washington portrait artist Annette Polan.

New Tobler "is my baby, too," Polan said March 15, as she ran her fingers gently over the surface of the 6-inch-by-8-inch portrait she created for the new "Faces of the Fallen" project.

Polan traced a finger over the portrait's full lips.

"His mouth is so alive for me," she murmured. "I see it and think, I hope he had a girlfriend. I hope he had his first kiss."

The power of art to spark emotions in that manner — emotions a photograph may leave untouched — is what Polan and more than 150 volunteer artists are hoping to evoke with "Faces of the Fallen," an exhibition of 1,327 individual portraits of servicemembers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The exhibit, which opens to the public March 23 at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and runs through Labor Day, Sept. 5, includes portraits or silhouettes of every servicemember killed while deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom through Nov. 11, 2004.

Polan, a renowned portrait artist and professor of art at the Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, got her idea for the exhibit after her 81-year-old mother died in January 2004.

"I spent most of the winter," trying to deal with the grief, Polan said.

And at some point during that mourning process, Polan saw the periodic Washington Post feature "Faces of the Fallen."

The Post publishes the photos of as many servicemembers as possible that have died in Iraq or Afghanistan in a gallery format. Looking at the latest Post installment, "I had a 'eureka' moment," Polan said.

Polan envisioned a space dedicated not to photographs, but to portraits, which she believes are ultimately more revealing.

Retired Brig. Gen. Wilma Wright, the Women's Memorial Foundation president and a friend of Polan's, was an early supporter.

Wright acted as a liaison with the Defense Department, as well as offering the memorial as the exhibit space.



Army Sgt. Yihjyh L. Chen



Army Sgt. Keelan Moss



Army Pfc. Marlin T. Rockhold



Army Pfc. James Lambert

Some of the faces of the fallen

Photos courtesy of "Faces of the Fallen"



Marine Pfc. Juan Garza

Before the project got under way, the different military services mailed letters to each family whose portrait was scheduled to be part of the exhibit, giving them the opportunity not to participate if they so chose.

They were also informed that once the exhibit is done touring, each honored servicemember's family would be given the portrait.

Not a single family declined, Polan said.

If the initial display proves popular enough, and enough donations come their way, the nonprofit "Faces" board of directors hope to both sponsor more portraits, and to put the exhibit on a national tour, Polan said.

Each painting is mounted on a specially designed gray holder on a pole — a format inspired by a photograph of a graveyard in Qom, Iraq, where each person's grave is marked by a photo of the deceased, Polan said.

The intent of the portraits, however, is not to remind viewers of death, but to celebrate lives that are normally noted only in ever-growing statistics, said Dennis O'Neil, an expert in print-making who provided 200 hand-screened silhouettes for the exhibit that are "place holders" for servicemembers whose photos were not available, or whose



PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Left: Washington artist Paula Wachstock, left, and Rhoda Baer, a photographer and artist, install the first portraits for the "Faces of the Fallen" exhibit at Arlington National Cemetery. The exhibit opens March 23 and runs through Sept. 5. Above: Artist Annette Polan discusses the display — 1,327 individual portraits of servicemembers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

assigned artists have not completed their assignments.

"When one artist deals with one soul, you're re-humanizing the fact that these people lost their lives," said O'Neil, who in addition to working as an artist is also a professor of art at the Corcoran.

Whether dealing in paint, wood, fabric or any other allowable medium, each "Faces" artist had "to stretch himself to find something about that person,

somehow capture a piece of their humanity," O'Neil said.

Before the exhibit opens to the public, there will be a special reception and viewing for the families of the servicemembers. Polan said that 1,800 family members have indicated that they will attend, including a family traveling from India for the event, and a military widow who is coming from Australia.

For all the viewers of "Faces of the Fallen," Polan said, "what I re-

ally hope (the exhibit) ultimately has is the quality of healing."

"We as a country are going through a very divisive time," Polan said.

"But we can all agree as Americans that the troops who sacrificed their lives, deserve to be honored and remembered."

To see a slide show of many of the completed portraits, and to learn more about Faces of the Fallen, go to: www.facesofthefallen.org

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

IN THE WORLD

Amman urges U.N. to adopt reforms

Expanded Security Council, new definition of terrorism proposed

BY EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged world leaders Monday to implement the boldest changes to the United Nations in its 60-year history by expanding the size of the Security Council, writing a new definition of terrorism and strengthening protections for human rights.

In a speech to the 191-member U.N. General Assembly, Annan called for adopting his entire reform package at a summit of world leaders in September, and he warned countries against treating the list of proposals "as an à la carte menu, and select only those that you especially fancy."

But getting leaders to agree on the package will not be easy because many countries have opposing views on issues ranging from reform of the powerful Security Council to creation of a new

Human Rights Council to increasing development assistance to poor countries.

The timing of Annan's appeal also raised some questions, coming just before former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker releases the results of an investigation into the activities of Annan and his son, Kofi, in relation to the scandal-ridden U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq. Kofi Annan worked in Africa for a company that had an oil-for-food contract.

Asked at a news conference how he believed the United States would respond to the report, Annan said he hoped all countries would find his suggestions in their interests.

"I think there are many things in the report that should please many states including the United States," he told reporters. "You have to understand that we have 191 member states and I was dealing with the problems of all regions."

Rice hints at sanctions for North Korea, scolds China on Taiwan policy

BY ANNE GEARAN
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hinted Monday that North Korea faces possible international sanctions if it flouts a diplomatic effort to halt its nuclear weapons program.

Rice also delivered subtle rebukes to China for raising the stakes in the perennial standoff with Taiwan and for the communist country's limitations on religious freedom.

"I made that point ... and I do hope that there is an understanding that religious communities are not a threat to transitioning societies," Rice said at a news conference. "In fact, they are very often in societies that are changing a force for good, for stability and for compassion."

Rice said on Monday denounced U.S. criticism of China's rising military power as interference in another country's internal affairs.

North Korea said its people "fully support" China's move as a way of promoting "peaceful reunification of the country."

"Its adoption is an entirely just step," the North's official Rodong Simun daily wrote in a commentary carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency. "Therefore, no one is entitled to take exception to it."

China is a key ally of North Korea, but has also been working closely with the United States in efforts to bring the North back to the nuclear disarmament talks. The talks, aimed at persuading the North to give up its nuclear ambitions, also involve South Korea, Japan and Russia.

"The open interference of the U.S. in the domestic issue of China is an expression of its hegemonism and arrogance," the commentary said.

Rice said she asked Chinese leaders for more help to bring the North Koreans back to the six-way weapons talks. The Pyongyang regime has said it already has at least one nuclear weapon and has given no indication it is ready to bargain further.

"It goes without saying that to the degree that a nuclear free Korean peninsula goes more difficult to achieve if the North does not recognize that it needs to do that then others won't have to look at other options," Rice said.

She did not spell out a fallback position, but it could include seeking high economic sanctions on North Korea through the U.N. Security Council. Theoretically, the United States might also launch a military attack, though Rice and other U.S. officials have repeatedly said they do not intend to do that.



Opposition protesters in traditional Kyrgyz hats rally Monday in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Thousands of opposition activists stormed three government buildings in the city, forcing security forces to flee in the latest in a wave of protests to demand President Askar Akayev's resignation.

Kyrgyzstan's president orders probe of election amid protests

BY KADRY TOKTOGULOV
The Associated Press

OSH, Kyrgyzstan — Kyrgyzstan's president on Monday ordered a probe into alleged election violations as more than 17,000 protesters pressed their demands he step down, storming government buildings in the latest violence after weeks of demonstrations in this mountainous Central Asian nation.

Soviet-era leader President Askar Akayev ordered the Central Election Commission and the Supreme Court to investigate the alleged election wrongdoing, his office said in a statement.

"The two government bodies were told to 'pay particular attention to those districts where election results provoked extreme public reaction ... and tell people openly who is right and who is wrong,'" the statement said. "The disputes need to be solved fully and fairly."

Protests against Akayev, who has led this mainly Muslim nation for 15 years, began after parliamentary elections on Feb. 27, and intensified after subsequent run-offs, which the opposition, Europe and the United States said were seriously flawed, a charge denied by the government.

There was no immediate reaction to the announcement of the election probe from the leaders of the demonstrations, which have been compared to peaceful revolutions that swept two other former Soviet republics over the past two years: Georgia and Ukraine.

But a Central Asia expert with the Russian newspaper Vremya Novosti, Arkady Dubnov, said the situation in Kyrgyzstan was irreversible.

"The only question now is when the government will be changed," he told Ekho Moskvy radio.

Russia's Foreign Ministry condemned the protests on Monday, saying in a statement that "extremist forces must not be allowed to use political instability to create a threat to the democratic foundations of Kyrgyz statehood."

It also rebuked the Organization for Security and Cooperation for its critical evaluation of the Kyrgyz elections, urging it to "be more responsible in formulating their conclusions to prevent destructive elements from using these assessments to justify their lawless actions."

OSCE observers said the election fell short of democratic standards.

The biggest rally with about 15,000 people was in the southern city of Jalal-Abad, a local government spokesman said. There were no reports of violence there Monday, a day after demonstrators burned much of the police headquarters, freed 70 detained protesters and occupied the governor's office.

In Kyrgyzstan's second-largest city of Osh, about 1,000 protesters took control of the governor's building. Activists had first stormed the building Friday, but were ousted by security forces Saturday before retaking it.

Eight admit to planning attacks in Yemen

The Associated Press

SANA, Yemen — Eight suspected al-Qaida members, including an Iraqi with Swiss nationality, admitted in court Monday to planning attacks on Western embassies here, while six convicted terrorists were sentenced to two years in jail in another case.

The trials were the latest in a series of Yemeni cases involving the terror network of Osama bin Laden, who has ancestral ties to this tribal-dominated Arabian

Peninsula country that has long been a haven for Islamic extremists.

The eight suspected al-Qaida members told the court on the opening day of their trial Monday that they had planned to attack the British and Italian embassies and the French Cultural Center in the Yemeni capital and that they received money and instructions from al-Qaida operatives in Saudi Arabia. They face five to 10 years in jail if convicted.

The suspects, including five Ye-

menis, Iraqi-born Swiss national Anwar Bayan Sadiq al-Gaylani and Syrians Omar Mohammed Said and Majid Omar Nizan, were detained during recent months in a crackdown on terrorism by Yemeni authorities.

The eight are among 13 suspected al-Qaida members detained recently. Five were released, including a Yemeni woman, for lack of evidence. Police found grenades, military fatigues and documents showing sketches of the sites to be attacked.

Pope's frailty raises doubts about recovery

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II's latest appearance stirred tens of thousands of pilgrims, but the frail pontiff's inability to manage a simple greeting to his largest audience in months raised new questions about his recovery. John Paul pressed a hand to his face and pounded a lectern in apparent frustration during his Palm Sunday appearance, which lasted less than a minute, at a window of his apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square.

It was the first time in 26 years as pope that he was unable to preside over the Mass ushering in Holy Week, the most important season on the Christian calendar and long one of his favorite appointments.

His face looked drawn and his lips curled in a pucker, the 84-year-old pontiff did not offer even a simple worded greeting from his third-floor window, which was adorned with a braided palm frond and a crimson poppy banner.

Just a week earlier, before his release from a Rome hospital

after Feb. 24 surgery to insert a breathing tube in his windpipe, John Paul had managed two sentences in a raspy voice. But on Sunday, with up to 50,000 expectant pilgrims packing the square, he said nothing, slapping the lectern with an open hand after waving an olive branch.

Vatican television did not zoom in close on the pope as it has during his other recent window appearances.

The adoring crowd applauded and grew teary-eyed at the sight of John Paul, clearly moved even though he didn't address the faithful or read out a few lines of his weekly blessing.

The mute appearance threw fresh doubts on the pope's convalescence after being hospitalized for two breathing crises in less than a month. It was yet another signal that the papacy is entering a new phase, with the pope in the background delegating important events to top churchmen.

The pope suffered from Parkinson's disease, which affects muscle control and makes it difficult for him to speak clearly. The Vatican has said the pope's doctors will decide when the tube should be removed from his throat.



Pope John Paul II touches his face after he blessed pilgrims and faithful from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sunday. Pope John Paul II, unable to preside over Palm Sunday Mass for the first time in his 26-year papacy, appeared at his apartment window to greet tens of thousands of pilgrims who filled St. Peter's Square.

Study: Racist attacks on rise

PARIS — Racist and anti-Semitic violence in France nearly doubled in 2004, hitting the highest level ever recorded and showing no sign of slowing, according to an official study released Monday.

Jews and Muslims were the victims of 1,565 recorded acts of violence, threats and intimidation in 2004, up from 826 a year earlier, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights said in its annual report.

It was the highest number of attacks since France began keeping statistics on racist violence in 1990, said a commission spokesman, Gerard Fellous.

Anti-Semitic acts represented nearly two-thirds of all the hate crimes reported, rising to 970 compared with 601 in 2003, said the report.

The majority of acts against Jews were committed by people from an "Arab-Muslim background" and they appeared to be more violent than in the past, causing 33 injuries in 2004 compared with 22 a year earlier, the report said. Jewish groups said they were outraged but not surprised by the findings.

Muslims also saw a rise in attacks in 2004, the report showed, with threats and attacks against Muslims more than doubling to 595 last year, up from 232. The majority of anti-Muslim acts were committed by far-right supporters.

Norwegian killed in sausage grinder

OSLO, Norway — A 40-year-old Norwegian was killed instantly Monday when he fell or was sucked into an industrial sausage grinder while at work in an Oslo meat factory, police said.

The man, whose name was not released, was working at the huge machines at the Ankervei Skjottmoen Pølsemakeri. It was not immediately clear how he ended up in the grinder at about 5:30 a.m.

"Three people were working around the sausage grinder when one of them fell or was sucked in," Stig Overboe of the Oslo police told the Norwegian news agency NTB. "We don't know what caused the accident, but it's possible that a vacuum built up in the grinder." The Norwegian Labor Inspection Authority was also investigating the cause of the accident, and the state of safety devices in and around the grinder.

From The Associated Press

Mafia victims remembered in Italy

BY MARTA FALCONI

The Associated Press

ROME — Thousands of students from across Italy gathered in a Rome stadium Monday to commemorate hundreds of policemen, magistrates and citizens killed by the Mafia in over a century.

About 800 students applauded as the names of 640 people who have been killed by the mob since 1893 were read out in Rome's Flaminio Stadium. The names that drew the biggest applause were those of anti-Mafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, killed in 1992 back-to-back slayings that shocked the country.

Rome's City Hall, one of the organiz-

ers, said the students were from 130 schools across the country, including from regions where organized crime is deep-rooted, such as Sicily, Calabria, Campania and Puglia in the south.

The ceremony was one in a series of events planned in the capital to commemorate victims of mob-related violence. Later in the day, the victims' names were to be read out loud in a solemn ceremony at the Capitoline Hill.

Italy has marked March 21 as a "Day of Memory and of Commitment" to continue the fight against the mob since 1996.

The Mafia has kept a low profile in recent years, pressing ahead with activities

such as gaining control of public works contracts in Sicily.

The killings of Falcone and Borsellino, which provoked an unprecedented wave of anger in Italy, prompted the government to step up its war against the Mafia, and eventually led to the arrest of the then-head of the Sicilian Mafia, Salvatore "Totò" Riina.

However, the man who is believed to have taken over, Bernardo Provenzano, has been on the run for 40 years and remains at large.

The names of those commemorated Monday will be engraved on a memorial stone to be placed on the grounds of a Rome villa confiscated from a local mobster, said anti-Mafia association Libera, another organizer.

France dismantles its 35-hour workweek

BY LAURENCE FROST

The Associated Press

PARIS — Sophie Guibaud not only holds down a decent job, she also finds time to help run her son's nursery and treat herself to regular weekdays of shopping, movies and art shows.

The secret to her balancing act is a remarkable piece of social engineering — France's 35-hour workweek. Introduced under the Socialists but headed for effective abolition by lawmakers Tuesday, "les 35 heures" have been a boon for some but, critics argue, a big drain on the economy.

Heated debate over dismantling the working time law has fed into wider political and literary soul-searching in France, on themes ranging from the country's economic frailty and bureaucratic office culture to whether quality of life should be measured in time or money.

For Guibaud, a Parisian, that last question is a no-brainer.

"Work is not the only thing in my life," she said.

With unemployment at 10 percent, politicians of all stripes acknowledge that the 35-hour law has failed in its original ambition: to force employers to hire massively. What's more, there are strong signs that it has held back living standards — measured the monetary way — as employers force salaries to make up for lost labor.

"The intention was to spread work around, but the effect was to spread our salaries around," said Thierry Breton, France's new finance minister, in his first major news conference on policy last week.

Lawmakers are about to hold the final vote on a government-backed bill allowing companies to negotiate new contracts requiring staff to work up to an additional 220 hours a year — effectively restoring the previous 39-hour work week.

The conservative-dominated parliament approved the reform by 370 votes to 180 in its first reading, almost three years after the general election that ousted the Socialists from power.

President Jacques Chirac's government has sold the plan as a chance to "Work More to Earn More." In practice, though, only the lucky few will get to pick their schedules individually. Companies are far more likely to negotiate uniform deals on pay and conditions, which are easier and cheaper to manage.

Guibaud is determined to hold onto her newfound lifestyle and suggests she would consider leaving her job as a loan company manager rather than work longer hours.

Last year, a parliamentary committee reported that the 35-hour week cost the state more than 10 billion euros (\$13 billion) a year, also casting doubt on a labor ministry study that suggested it had created 350,000 jobs between 1998 and 2002.

Most French workers, such as Guibaud, are loath to give up their shorter hours, even for more cash. Some 56 percent of salaried employees oppose the government's plan, according to a survey by pollsters CSA published last month, while 36 percent approve.

Qatar sponsors anti-terrorism protests

BY ADNAN MALIK

The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Waving banners saying "No To Terrorism," more than 1,000 Qatari on Monday protested the weekend's rare suicide bombing in this sleepy Gulf state that killed one Briton and injured a dozen others.

The state-orchestrated rally was held in a desert lot several hundred yards from the Doha Foyers Theater, which was targeted in Saturday's suicide bombing that Qatar has blamed on an Egyptian computer programmer who had worked here for five years.

About 20 Western expatriates, some wearing blue jeans, were among the Qatari protesters, hundreds of whom wore white

flowing robes, waved Qatar's maroon and white national flag and raised placards denouncing terrorism and saying "Western Expats, We Love You." Several Qatari held somber prayers at the protest site.

The attack killed Jonathan Adams, a British teacher who was the director of a local production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," the play that was being performed when the suicide bomber struck.

"I am here for John and to express my anger at what happened and I believe this is not the work of Qatar," said Nick Blessey, a 56-year-old employee of the state-owned Qatar Petroleum company, from Glasgow, Scotland, who was a friend of Adams.

Qatari media outlets called for people to take part in the "Rally of Indignation" pro-

test in Doha's northern Farek Kelab suburb Monday afternoon. Nearby, about 50 heavily armed paratroopers patrolled the cordoned-off theater compound devastated by the blast. Foreigners attended the protest despite warnings from Western embassies not to gather in public.

Newspapers plastered pictures of the alleged bomber, Egyptian Omar Ahmed Abdullah Ali, alongside photographs of Adams. The Briton had lived in Qatar for two years after working in Dubai and Sri Lanka, according to reports.

"We are very angry with what has happened in our country and we will back our government in every way to make sure none of this will ever happen again," said Hassan al-Kindi, a 60-year-old Doha busi-

nessman, who attended the rally. "We want the world to know that Qatar is a safe place for everyone."

The idea of organizing an anti-terrorism rally is similar to tactics used by other Gulf nations trying to turn public opinion against terrorist acts.

In Saudi Arabia, for example, the government has publicized several cases where families of suicide attackers have condemned their sons. Families have often called the attacks un-Islamic.

Saudi authorities have also aired television documentaries showing families' agony after attacks, and persuaded Islamic clerics to describe such acts as un-Islamic.

Qatari papers carried full-page ads condemning the attack and offering condolences to Adams' widow and children.

Indonesia planning to ban terror group

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia plans to formally outlaw the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, a move that will make it easier for authorities to arrest and prosecute militants in the world's most populous Muslim nation, a top security official said Monday.

Banning the organization — which is listed by the United Nations as a terrorist group — will please the United States and other foreign governments but risks opposition from Muslim groups and political parties that fear it may herald a broader crackdown on Islamic activists.

Ansyad Mbai, who heads the counterterrorism desk at Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry for Political and Security Affairs, said the government intends to outlaw the group, which is blamed for a host of attacks and plots throughout Southeast Asia, including the 2002 Bali nightclub attacks.

"I am convinced that this will

happen because I know President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is very concerned with this problem," he said. "The reason this is not being done immediately is because the political situation is still very sensitive."

Authorities have locked up more than 150 militants in the last three years, but officials balk at publicly identifying them as belonging to Jemaah Islamiyah or being motivated by sympathy with al-Qaida.

Part of the reluctance to ban Jemaah Islamiyah rests on its name, which means "Islamic community." Proponents of an Islamic state in secular Indonesia, who were brutally repressed under former dictator Suharto, fear that such a ban could mean they too will be targeted.

Mbai said that banning the group was essential in the fight against terror.

Jemaah Islamiyah's alleged spiritual leader, Abu Bakar Bashir, was sentenced to 30 months in jail earlier this month for conspiracy in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people.

Christians celebrate Palm Sunday in Jerusalem



Christian pilgrims walk down the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, some holding palm leaves, during the traditional Palm Sunday procession. Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of Holy Week for Christians, commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, when his followers laid palm branches in his path. Holy Week is the most important season on the Christian calendar and culminates with Easter Sunday.

Two U.N. peacekeepers killed in separate battles in Haiti

BY STEVENSON JACKSON

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — U.N. troops and ex-soldiers from Haiti's disbanded army fought two gunbattles in the country's southwest and center, killing at least four people, including two

peacekeepers, in the deadliest day for the 10-month-old U.N. mission, officials said.

The Sri Lankan and Nepalese soldiers who died Sunday were the first peacekeepers killed in fighting here since the U.N. troops arrived in June 2004, replacing a U.S.-led force, to try to

stabilize the impoverished, volatile nation following the ouster of its leader.

The first clash erupted after U.N. troops raided a police station operated by armed ex-soldiers in Petit-Goave, an ex-soldier stronghold about 45 miles west of Port-au-Prince, setting off a fierce gun-

battle, U.N. spokesman Toussaint Kongo-Doudou said.

"We lost one man," Kongo-Doudou said, adding that three other peacekeepers were injured and in stable condition. Two ex-soldiers died and 10 others were wounded.

Later Sunday, a group of Ne-

palese soldiers driving to the central town of Hinche exchanged gunfire with a different group of former soldiers, U.N. spokesman Damian Onses-Cardona said. The ex-soldiers killed one Nepalese and stole one of their vehicles. It wasn't clear if the ex-soldiers suffered any casualties.

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IN THE STATES

Schiavo case goes before federal judge

BY VICKIE CHACHERE

The Associated Press

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — The parents of Terri Schiavo asked a judge to reinstate the brain-damaged woman's feeding tube Monday, following an extraordinary political fight that consumed both chambers of Congress and prompted the president to rush back to the White House.

An attorney for Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, arrived at federal district court in Tampa and filed to request Schiavo's emergency injunction to keep back to the White House.

It was assigned to U.S. District Judge James Whittemore, who was nominated to the court in 1999 by President Clinton. He set a hearing for Monday afternoon, according to a court Web site.

David Gibbs II, attorney for the parents, said the judge had sent a message saying he was reviewing the filings in the case.

Earlier Monday, the House, following a move by the Senate, passed a bill to let the parents ask a federal judge to remove Schiavo's life by reinstating her feeding tube. President Bush signed the measure less than an hour later.



Bob Schindler, Terri Schiavo's father, foreground, and Terri's sister, Suzanne Vitadamo, appear outside the Woodside Hospice, where Terri is a patient, early Monday in Pinellas Park, Fla.

Schiavo's husband, Michael Schiavo, said he was outraged that lawmakers and the president were intervening in the contentious right-to-die battle. He has

fought for years with his wife's parents over whether she should be permitted to die or be kept alive through the feeding tube.

"This is a sad day for Terri. But

I'll tell you what: It's also a sad day for everyone in this country because the United States government is going to come in and trample all over your personal, family matters," he told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday.

The lawsuit alleges a series of rights violations, including that Terri Schiavo's religious beliefs were being infringed upon, that the removal of the feeding tube violated her rights and that she was not provided an independent attorney to represent her interests.

Outside the hospice where his daughter entered her fourth day without food or water, Bob Schindler told reporters "I'm numb, I'm just totally numb. This whole thing, it's hard to believe it."

A shout of joy was heard from the crowd outside the hospice when news of the House bill's passage came. Among those cheering was David Bayly, 45, of Toledo, Ohio: "I'm overjoyed to see the vote and see Terri's life extended by whatever amount God gives her."

The 41-year-old woman's feeding tube was removed Friday on a Florida judge's order. Schiavo could linger for one or two weeks if the tube is not reinstated — as has happened twice before.

Terri Schiavo suffered brain damage in 1990 when she was stopped briefly because of a possible potassium imbalance brought on by an eating disorder. She can breathe on her own, but has relied on the feeding tube to keep her alive.

Court-appointed doctors say she is in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery. Her husband says she would not want to be kept alive in that condition, but her parents insist she could recover with treatment.

Bob Schindler visited his daughter late Sunday and said he was subdued by several fellow airline passengers after he became disruptive on a New York-bound flight, a spokesman said Sunday.

William Lee was pronounced dead late Friday after he was removed from the American Airlines flight at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Lee, 48, of Brooklyn, stood up in his seat on American's Flight 4 from Los Angeles and "loudly demanded another beer," airline spokesman Tim Smith said.

Flight attendants asked him to wait until they reached his row, Smith said, but the man "got very, very belligerent and loud and disruptive and was told he would not be served any more alcohol."

Seven male passengers restrained Lee, who was a very large man, and they and the flight crew put flexible handcuffs on him and put him back in his seat, Smith said.

Time Warner settles fraud charges

NEW YORK — Time Warner Inc., the world's largest media company, yesterday agreed to settle fraud charges with the Securities and Exchange Commission for overstating online advertising revenues and the number of its Internet subscribers.

As part of the agreement announced Monday, Time Warner has restated its financial results, reducing the amount of online advertising revenues it reported by about \$500 million from the fourth quarter of 2000 through 2002, the SEC said.

From The Associated Press

The Battle for Schiavo

A look at the long legal battle over whether Florida's Terri Schiavo, 41, may be taken off life support.



MEASURES TO ...

- REMOVED THE FEEDING TUBE
- KEPT SCHIAVO ALIVE

Feb. 1990: Schiavo suffers brain damage from heart failure.

Feb. 2000: Circuit Judge George W. Greer rules that Schiavo's feeding tube may be removed, as requested by her husband.

April 2001: The feeding tube is removed. Two days later, Circuit Judge Frank Oudesa orders doctors to reinstate it.

June 2003: The 2nd District Court of Appeal upholds Greer's ruling to remove the tube. Oct. Gov. Jeb Bush files a federal court brief arguing that Schiavo be kept alive. He is denied.

Doctors remove the feeding tube.

The state legislature passes a bill, called "The Law," allowing Bush to intervene. He orders the feeding tube reinstated.

Sept. 2004: Florida's Supreme Court rules that Terri's Law is unconstitutional.

Jan. 2005: The U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear the governor's appeal.

Feb. Greer grants an emergency stay blocking the removal of Schiavo's feeding tube. He later sets March 18 as the day the tube may be removed.

Wednesday: House passes legislation to try to block efforts to let Schiavo die.

Thursday: Senate passes separate legislation.

Friday: House committee subpoenas Schiavo and others. Florida judge blocks the subpoenas. U.S. Supreme Court lets that ruling stand. Feeding tube is removed.

Sunday: Senate passes legislation giving federal courts jurisdiction in the case.

Monday: House passes the same bill, sending it to President Bush for his signature.

Sources: AP staff reports LATWP

Religions divided over ethics of sustaining brain-damaged woman

BY EMMA ROSS

The Associated Press

LONDON — The Vatican said pulling the feeding tube from an American brain-damaged woman interfered with divine providence.

Orthodox Jews took the opposite view, saying keeping her alive tampered with the process of death. And Islamic scholars were divided on the ethics of Terri Schiavo's case.

The Vatican condemned the withdrawal of the feeding tube in its newspaper Monday.

"Who — and on the basis of which criteria — can establish to whom the 'privilege' to live should be given?" L'Osservatore Romano said in a commentary Monday. "Who can, before God and humanity, pretend with impunity to claim such a right?"

But according to Rabbi Noam Zohar, an expert on Jewish bioethics from the Bar Ilan University in Israel, Orthodox Judaism draws distinctions between letting someone die and causing their death. "According to mainstream orthodox Jewish law, it is not only permissible but requisite to remove artificial impediments to the death process because it is not permissible to place these there in the first place," Zohar said, adding that this applies only if there is no hope of recovery.

Opinion in the Muslim world is mixed. Islamic scholars and scientists have two different opinions in this case, some say that ending the life of a person in a hopeless condition is considered murder and is forbidden, while others say that it could be done if the physicians assure that the patient is clinically dead," said Safwat Higazy, a prominent Egyptian Islamic cleric.

Supreme Court declines Moussaoui appeal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court — which saw the return of Chief Justice William Rehnquist since being diagnosed with thyroid cancer last October — declined Monday to hear terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui's appeal of a ruling upholding the Bush administration's power to bar certain witnesses sought by the only person charged in the United States in connection with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Justices let stand a lower court ruling that allowed the government to pursue the death penalty while restricting Moussaoui's direct access to three al-Qaida terror captives. The lower court, citing national security concerns, said Moussaoui could use government-prepared summaries from

the captives but not interview them himself. The Supreme Court action shifts the case back to a trial court that could begin as early as September.

In other cases: ■ The Supreme Court declined to clarify how much federal law shields companies from shareholder lawsuits when they make financial disclosures that later turn out to be wrong. Justices let stand a lower court ruling that allowed investors to proceed with their lawsuit against Baxter International Inc. The Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Baxter may not have disclosed enough about potential risks when it predicted repeatedly — wrongly as it turned out — good revenue growth in 2002.

■ The Supreme Court declined to reinstate a lawsuit by the par-

ents and husband of a murdered Colorado woman who claim authorities bungled the investigation. Without comment, justices let stand a lower court ruling that also rebuffed attempts by the parents and husband of Buffy Rice Donohue to question journalists who covered the investigation.

■ The Supreme Court dodging a charged dispute over judicial nominations, declined to consider whether President Bush overstepped his bounds in naming a federal judge while Congress was on a short break. The court refused to hear a trio of cases challenging the "recess appointment" of William Pryor to the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year. The appeals argued that Pryor's temporary appointment was an end-run around the Senate's right to confirm or reject judicial nominees.

Report says U.S. misled allies on nukes

BY DAFNA LINZER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In an effort to increase pressure on North Korea, the Bush administration told its Asian allies in briefings earlier this year that Pyongyang had exported nuclear material to Libya. That was a significant new charge, the first alleging that North Korea was helping to create a new nuclear weapons state.

But that is not what U.S. intelli-

gence reported, according to two officials with detailed knowledge of the transaction. North Korea, according to the intelligence, had supplied uranium hexafluoride — which can be enriched to weapons-grade uranium — to Pakistan. It was Pakistan, a key U.S. ally with its own nuclear arsenal, that sold the material to Libya. The U.S. government had no evidence, the officials said, that North Korea knew of the second transaction.

Pakistan's role as both the buyer

and the seller was concealed to cover up the part played by Washington's partner in the hunt for al-Qaida leaders, according to the officials, who discussed the issue on the condition of anonymity. In addition, a North Korea-Pakistan transfer would not have been news to the U.S. allies, which view such transfers as a business matter between sovereign states.

The Bush administration's approach, intended to isolate North Korea, instead left allies increas-

ingly doubtful as they began to learn that the briefings omitted essential details about the transaction, U.S. officials and foreign diplomats said in interviews.

North Korea responded to public reports last month about the briefings by withdrawing from talks with its neighbors and the United States.

In an effort to repair the damage, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice traveled through East Asia over the weekend to try to

get the six-nation talks back on track.

The United States briefed allies on North Korea in late January and early February. Shortly afterward, administration officials, speaking to The Washington Post on the condition of anonymity, said North Korea had sold uranium hexafluoride to Libya and portrayed the briefings as part of regular discussions with China, South Korea and Japan ahead of a possible new round of negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program.



Visitors look at a DeLorean used in U.S. movie "Back to the Future" at the International Classic Cars China Tour on March 5 in Shanghai, China. John DeLorean, an innovative automaker who left a promising career in Detroit to develop the gull-winged sports cars, died Saturday of complications from a recent stroke.

Sports car developer DeLorean dies

BY JEFFREY GOLD

The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — While only about 9,000 of his namesake cars were ever built, John Z. DeLorean-

an's place in auto history was assured as soon as the gull-winged sports cars rumbled off the assembly line.

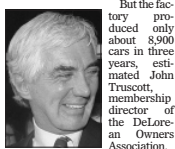
DeLorean was among just a handful of U.S. entrepreneurs who dared start a car company in the last 75 years until his career was derailed by federal drug charges. DeLorean died late Saturday in Summit of complications from a recent stroke, said Paul Connell, an owner of A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Directors in Royal Oak, Mich., which was handling arrangements. He was 80.

While apt to be remembered popularly as the man behind the car modified for time travel in the "Back to the Future" movies, DeLorean left a powerful imprint in automaking built on unique, souped-up cars.

A Detroit native, DeLorean broke the mold of staid Midwestern auto executives by "going Hollywood" and pushed General Motors Corp. to offer smaller models, auto historians said.

DeLorean was a rising if unconventional executive at GM who many believe was destined for its presidency before he quit in 1973 to launch the DeLorean Motor Car Co. in Northern Ireland. Eight years later, the DeLorean DMC-12 hit the streets.

Its hallmarks, such as an unpainted stainless steel skin and the gull-wing doors, have been ignored by mainstream automakers. The angular design, however, earned it a cult following.



DeLorean

But the factory produced only about 8,900 cars in three years, estimated John Truscott, membership director of the DeLorean Owners Association.

DeLorean's company collapsed in 1983, a year after he was arrested in Los Angeles and accused of conspiring to sell \$24 million of cocaine to salvage his venture.

DeLorean was later cleared of defrauding investors.

John Zachary DeLorean joined GM in 1956 as an engineering director for Pontiac. His patents included the recessed windshield wiper and the overhead cam engine. DeLorean led Pontiac by age 40, and four years later became the youngest head of GM's giant Chevrolet division.

Michael Jackson late to court again

BY TIM MOLLOY

The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — For the second time in less than two weeks, Michael Jackson arrived late to his child molestation trial Monday, walking slowly and stiffly into court. But the judge ordered testimony to resume with no explanation of what transpired during a 45-minute delay.

Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville ordered lawyers to continue questioning an investigator, sheriff's Sgt. Conn Abel, who was on the stand last week when testimony recessed.

The pop star had been threatened with arrest on March 10 when he came more than an hour late after an early morning trip to a hospital for treatment of what his attorneys said was a back injury. Despite the threat, Melville had no action that time.

Jackson's motorcade pulled up at the courthouse about one minute past the 8:30 a.m. start time and it took him a couple of minutes to get inside.

On Thursday, the most recent day of testimony in the case, a

Jackson attorney said the singer's back was still bothering him and he planned to rest and relax during the weekend.

Prosecutors have said they may wrap up the stage of their case focusing on a boy's molestation claims as early as this week. District Attorney Tom Sneddon said a hearing last week that prosecutors may finish presenting evidence about the 15-year-old's allegations that Jackson molested him by Friday.

Those expected to testify about the alleged molestation include investigators who searched Jackson's Newland Valley Ranch on Nov. 18, 2003, and Stan Katz, a psychologist who interviewed the boy and his brother about the alleged molestation.

What comes after the testimony will depend on how Melville rules in a hearing next Monday on the prosecution's request that they be allowed to present evidence of alleged past molestations by Jackson. If the judge agrees to admit the evidence, they may begin presenting witnesses about Jackson's past immediately after the ruling.

Dad says son thwarted Letterman kidnap plot because 'he loves kids'

BY ADAM LISBERG AND TRACY CONNOR

New York Daily News

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — The Montana man who blew the whistle on the David Letterman kidnap plot turned in his best buddy because he loves children, his father said Sunday night. "He did the right thing and that's all he can do," informant Robert Gordon's dad, Glenn, told The New York Daily News.

"He loves kids and he didn't want anything like that to happen to anybody — not just Letterman."

After Robert Gordon went to the police last week, ex-con handyman Kelly Frank was charged with scheming to abduct Letterman's 16-month-old son, Harry, from his Montana ranch.

Letterman, an Army and Montana National Guard veteran, told The News he's barred from talking about the case. "There's a lot

I'd like to talk about, but I can't," he said.

Gordon's father, though, described how Frank, 43, had pressed for nearly two weeks to recruit his son as an accomplice in the alleged \$5 million ransom conspiracy.

"Kelly Frank tried to get him to get in on the deal," the elder Gordon said.

"When I saw him (Robert) a few days ago, I could see he was real troubled about something," his dad said.

Gordon, 43, a father of three, apparently was tormented by the thought that Frank might pull off the kidnapping even without his help. Then, he feared, he would be in trouble for not tipping off cops to the scheme, his father said.

Last Sunday, he contacted a sheriff's deputy and told him what he knew. Frank was arrested and charged with plotting to kidnap Harry from his crib while Letterman and his girlfriend were visiting the ranch.

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Above: Miner Jimmy Juhola swirls his pan for gold to reduce the contents at Clark Creek in Burnt River Canyon, Ore.



Top right: Juhola shovels dirt as he searches for gold. Juhola works alone and figures he's been at Clark Creek for 19 years.

Below right: Ken Anderson, 78, a retired mining engineer, holds a gold nugget in Baker City, Ore. With an ounce of gold in the \$420 range, more people are revisiting the West's historic gold-producing regions.

AP photos

Miners flock to 'golden' mountains

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZER

The Associated Press

BURNT RIVER CANYON, Ore. — As the icy waters of Clark Creek swirl in his gold pan, Ken Anderson expertly reduces the contents, first to small pebbles, then smaller ones, then to a little sand.

"There's still too much there," he said. "When we get it down to a couple of tablespoons, we'll look." A few more expert swirls and dips isolate a film of black sand in the bottom, and with a gaze born of 55 years' experience he spots it. It's no bigger than a pinpoint, but it's "colors" — gold.

"They say when you see gold you'll know it, no matter how small it is," said Anderson, 78, a retired mining engineer from Baker City.

Mining can be a pricey, risky proposition. "Maybe one prospect

in 50 will turn out to be something, and most of those won't turn out to be much," said Anderson.

Though it isn't a gold rush yet, Greg Visconti, area mining geologist for three national forests in northeastern Oregon, said, "In the past year mining claims have just about doubled."

There are probably 4,000 claims in the area, about 250 of them active, he said, noting that interest rises as the price hits \$400 and stays there. "A lot of people just enjoy mining. Some are trying to make a living at it," he said. While most new ventures are small, Denver-based Newmont Mining Corp., the world's largest, is building a \$200 million project near Battle Mountain, Nev.

But the go-it-alone flavor of the Old West hasn't vanished entirely. Jimmy Juhola works alone and figures he has worked Clark

Creek in Eastern Oregon's Burnt River Canyon for 19 years.

With a white beard, slouch hat and a pistol on his hip, Juhola could be from central casting.

He doesn't have a claim. He uses other peoples'. And they watch where he digs, Anderson said. Juhola can read the ground like a map.

"Now this up here," he said through a hand-rolled cigarette, "this should pay about \$7 (per cubic yard). This here below won't pay you nothin'." But this down here, this is good, this could be \$40 dirt.

Juhola knocks some loose with a pick. Back at the creek outside his small trailer, water swishes in the pan, the top gravel washes off and the residue gets finer and finer. "I got three colors," he announces, peering into the pan.

He produced a vial half-full of small nuggets coaxed from the dirt in earlier efforts.

Researchers find WWII Japanese sub near Hawaii

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The wreckage of a large World War II-era Japanese submarine has been found by researchers in waters off Hawaii.

A research team from the University of Hawaii discovered the I-401 submarine Thursday during dives off Oahu.

"We thought it was rocks at first, it was so huge," said Terry Kerby, pilot of the research craft that found the vessel. "But the sides of it kept going up and up and up, three and four stories tall. It's a leviathan down there, a monster."

The submarine is from the I-400 Sensuikan Toki class of subs, the largest built before the nuclear ballistic missile submarines of the 1960s.

They were 400 feet long and nearly 40 feet high and could carry a crew of 144. The submarines were designed to carry three "fold-up" bombers that could be assembled for flight within minutes.

Kerby said the main hull is sitting upright and is in good shape. The I-401 numbers are clearly visible on the sides, and the anti-aircraft guns are in almost perfect condition, he said.

An I-400 and an I-401 were captured at sea a week after the Japanese surrendered in 1945. Their mission — which was never completed — reportedly was to use the aircraft to drop rats and insects infected with bubonic plague, cholera, typhus and other diseases on U.S. cities.

Study: 11 million illegal immigrants now in U.S.

BY GENARO C. ARMAS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's undocumented immigrant population surged to 11.3 million last year, spurred largely since 2000 by the arrivals of unauthorized Mexicans in the United States, a report being released Monday says.

The population of undocumented residents in the United States increased by 23 percent from 8.4 million in the four-year period ending last March, according to the analysis of government data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a private research group.

That equates to a net increase of roughly 485,000 per year between 2000 and 2004. The estimate was derived by subtracting the number of unauthorized immigrants who leave the United States, die or acquire legal status from the number of new undocumented immigrants who arrive each year.

The prospect of better job opportunities in the United States

than in their native countries remains a powerful lure for many immigrants, said Pew center director Roberto Suro, pointing to a reason often cited by other researchers.

"The border has been the focus of federal efforts (to cut illegal entry) and has not produced a reduction in flow. Certainly that's an indication of ongoing demand," he said.

The population is growing at a similar pace as in the late 1990s even though the U.S. economy today isn't as robust, Suro said. Assuming the flow of undocumented immigrants into the country hasn't abated since March 2004, the population is likely near 11 million now.

Mexicans by far remain the largest group of undocumented migrants at 5.9 million, or about 57 percent of the March 2004 estimate. Some 2.5 million others, or 24 percent, are from other Latin American countries.

Overall, the U.S. foreign-born population, regardless of legal status, was 35.7 million last year.

Turtle survives earthly fire with devilish reminder

The Associated Press

MICHIGANTOWN, Ind. — A turtle that was the only survivor of a pet shop fire may have emerged with a hellish memento.

The palm-sized red-eared slider turtle, named Lucky, was the only animal to survive a fire last October at Dora's A-Dora-bie Pet Shop in nearby Frankfort, about

40 miles northwest of Indianapolis.

Owner Bryan Dora now says he sees an image of Satan's face on the critter's shell.

He can spot lips, eyes, a goatee, shoulders and a pair of pointy horns on Lucky's back.

"The marking on the shell was like the devil wanted us to know he was down there," Bryan Dora

said.

To me, it's too coincidental that the only thing to come out unscathed would have this image on it."

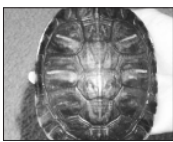
The image was not visible before the fire and Dora speculates the intense heat might have caused the shell's color to change.

The turtle is healthy and there was no change in its behavior, he

said.

The cause of fire that destroyed nine businesses or offices in the 1912 building in downtown Frankfort has not been determined.

"Turtles can hold their breath quite awhile," Dora said. "He must have taken on breath long before and held it through the fire. Except that the fire went on and on for hours."



The shell of Lucky the turtle is said to show a likeness of Satan.

AP



PHOTOS BY THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/KRT

Mike Gassmann, a fan of the Giant Catsup Bottle, background, takes a picture of artist Erika Nelson in front of the attraction in Collinsville, Ill. Nelson has created a miniature of the giant bottle, below, one of many other replicas of the world's biggest things in her traveling museum of the World's Smallest Collection of the World's Largest Things.

Art goes small in tribute to big items

BY JEFF DANIEL

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Do big things really come in small packages? Check with Erika Nelson. There's little doubt on how she'll answer. That's because Nelson is the driving force — literally and figuratively — behind the World's Largest Collection of World's Smallest Versions of World's Largest Things Traveling Roadside Attraction and Museum.

Based in Lucas, Kan., Nelson regularly grabs the steering wheel of her portable exhibit and hits the road. Her wildly decorated Ford Econoline 350 is nothing less than a roadside attraction brimming with roadside attractions. It's just that these attractions are well, smaller than life.

Such as? Such as a three-inch-tall model of a 170-foot-tall Brooks Cat-sup bottle. The larger structure can be found in Collinsville, Ill. And, for a few days last week, so could the impish impersonator. Nelson finished up a several-day stop in the St. Louis area by parking her museum along Main Street in Collinsville's downtown business district.

It had been a whirlwind of activity for the artist/curator. On the west side of the Mississippi, she checked out a massive bowling pin, a humongous bottle of Vess soda, the gargantuan Amoco sign at Clayton Road and Skinker Boulevard and a King Kong-size pair of underwear at the City Museum. A former art professor at the



University of Kansas, Nelson, 31, is slowly making her way east toward a monthlong residency at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts. Big things — the majority of which inhabit small towns — dot the map of her travel itinerary.

The attraction seems to have started at an early age. Growing up in the Missouri Ozarks, Nelson found herself fascinated by the World's Largest 8 Ball in Tipton (home of a major billiards plant). She figured that every community must have a similar sort of quirky, iconic structure on its landscape. She later found out otherwise.

But the fascination never faded. Then, when visiting the World's Largest Ball of Twine in Cawker City, Kan., Nelson decided that the gift shop replica of the

lurking string ball could be improved upon.

So, she created a tiny version of her own. That was only the beginning. Smaller things were yet to come. The biggest badgers, pecans and gas pumps found themselves miniaturized at the hands of Nelson. In its own way, this was a form of folk art. But it also was a way for the artist to assist and connect with the small towns that she so dearly loves.

Water from body to needy

Efforts aimed at space travel get new earthly use

BY JEFFREY MCMURRAY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There are plenty of wells in Iraq, but the dead animals dumped there when Saddam Hussein was in power have contaminated them. There are plenty of streams in southeast Asia, but the recent tsunami polluted them with salt from the ocean.

How do you quench someone's thirst when there is plenty of water, but not a drop of it is drinkable? It's a question NASA researchers have pondered for nearly two decades, but villagers in Iraq and tsunami victims in Asia will get a taste of their answer as early as this fall — before any astronaut in space does.

The Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., has been testing a device intended for the space station that would recycle astronauts' sweat, respiration and even urine into drinking water purer than any found in a tap.

"They just breathe and exercise, urinate into the urinal and our system handles the rest," said



THE HUNTSVILLE (ALA.) TIMES/AP

David Hoppe of NASA works out Wednesday at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Marshall has been testing a system intended for the space station that would recycle an astronaut's sweat, respiration and even urine into drinking water purer than any found in a tap.

Robyn Carrasquillo, chief of the environmental control and life support division at Marshall.

Reno, Nev.-based investment firm Crestridge and the charity Concern for Kids are developing the systems for humanitarian purposes.

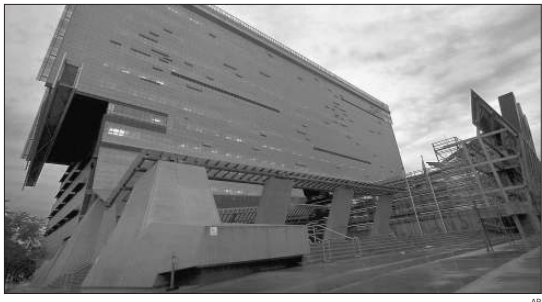
For \$29,000 in equipment costs and less than three cents a gallon, a trailer-mounted recycling device can travel from village to village, turning a well's unclean water into something suitable for drinking. Larger, stationary systems

equipped with packaging plants cost around \$400,000.

Next month, Crestridge plans to break ground on the first manufacturing plant for the earth-based water processing devices.

By September, it hopes to send 10 truck-mounted and at least three trailer devices to Iraq and 12 of the larger packaging units to southeast Asia.

NASA's timetable is somewhat less ambitious; the water processor is targeted for a shuttle launch in mid-2007.



The new Caltrans District 7 headquarters in downtown Los Angeles is the creation of architect Thomas Mayne, this year's recipient of the Pritzker Prize. The Pritzker is architecture's most prestigious honor.

Architect is first American to receive industry's highest award in 14 years

The Associated Press

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Thomas Mayne, whose bold architectural style has been embraced from New York to California and Taiwan to Spain, has won architecture's most prestigious prize.

Mayne, 61, who claimed the Pritzker Prize on Sunday, is the first American to win in 14 years and only the eighth U.S. architect to win in the 27-year history of the contest.

The Pritzker is vindication for the years Mayne spent struggling to maintain the purity of his unorthodox ideas. His stand earned him a reputation as an angry young man and alienated many clients.

"My whole essence was attempting to do some-

thing I believed in. I didn't understand how to negotiate that notion of the private and the public world," he said at Morphosis, his Santa Monica studio.

The jury cited Mayne for creating a bold architectural style that reflects the "unique, somewhat rootless, culture of Southern California" through angular lines and an unfinished, open-ended feel.

Mayne will be awarded a \$100,000 grant and a bronze medal on May 31. Past winners of the prize include I.M. Pei, Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano and Rem Koolhaas.

Mayne has won competitions and commissions for an array of major public projects, including the new Alaska state Capitol building and New York's 2012 Olympic Village, which will be built even if the city doesn't get the Games for that year.

'Tweens' jump on cell phone bandwagon

BY MARTHA IRVINE

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — There were two things 11-year-old Patty Wiegner really, really, really wanted for Christmas. One was a furry, playful dog that's now barking her parents' home with the sound of filling. The other gift makes a different kind of noise — it has a ring tone that mimics rapper 50 Cent's hit song "Candy Shop."

While some might question why someone so young might need one, and some scientists have expressed health concerns, Patty is one of many kids her age who are asking their parents for cell phones. And increasingly, they're getting them.

"It's cool and popular," Patty, a sixth-grader in Valrico, Fla., says of her reason for wanting the mobile phone. "And I can talk to my friends and talk to my dad and mom."

Her mom, Lisa Wiegner, wasn't entirely thrilled with the idea but gave in because she likes knowing her daughter can contact her if she needs to. "And," mom says, "I wanted to be able to be in touch with her in an emergency."

Some parents have been prompted to add their kids because their wireless companies offer "family plans," giving them a specified number of minutes to chat with one another each month.

Now, a few other companies are pushing the trend further by creating specific products for "tweens," a population of preteens as young as age 8 that some consider the next big, untapped market of cell phone users.

Firefly Mobile, one company that's developed a cell phone product for younger users, found that about 10 percent of tweens in its focus groups had phones, but that many more wanted them. The company also identified parent interest in a product that would allow them to keep tabs on their kids.

"What the market was telling us is that there's a need for kids to stay in touch with the people who are important to them," says Robin Abrams, Firefly Mobile's CEO.

The Firefly phone, created by a father in Illinois and being marketed nationwide in months to come, is smaller than other cell phones, allowing it to fit more easily in a kid's hand. It has simpler buttons, including ones that speed dial "Mom" or "Dad" — and gives parents more control by giving them password-protected access for programming the numbers the phone can dial and calls it can receive. The Firefly



Patty Wiegner sits with her dog Bingo at her Valrico, Fla., home talking with a friend. Eleven-year-old Patty wanted just two things for Christmas — a cellular phone and a dog. She got both her wishes.

phone also has no games or capabilities for text messaging, a popular function with teens that some parents dislike because it can get expensive — and distracting.

Meanwhile, Tiger Electronics, a subsidiary of Hasbro Inc., is taking another tack with its CHATNOW two-way radios, which allow communication — including sending text messages and photos — within a two-mile range. And toy maker Mattel is coming out with its own Barbie-themed prepaid cell phone.

It remains to be seen whether options like these will be a hit with their target age group.

Some kids say any phone is better than no phone. But others say they think they're old enough to handle a standard cell phone — and abide by the limits their parents place on calling during expensive weekday hours.

"It shows if you're mature; it's a privilege to get a phone," says Stephanie Beard, a 12-year-old in Northridge, Calif., who recently got a cell phone after begging her parents for more than a year.

Getting a phone was partly a reward for a very good report card — but also a matter of convenience for Stephanie's parents, who've used it to find her when picking her up from school and after sporting events.

Seventh-grader Alex Chmielewski's parents have even called his phone to track him down while shopping in the same store. The 13-year-old from Irvine, Calif., got his phone when he was 12, and also carries it with him when he rides his bike to school, something he does often because there is no bus service.

If you have a phone, "some people view it as you're lucky," Alex says. "But I don't just use it for calling friends and stuff like that," he adds. "It gives me a sense of security or safety."

It's already common for kids in parts of Europe and Asia to have cell phones, though British officials have been more cautious, recommending against giving them to children until more research can be done on potential health risks to growing young bodies from the electromagnetic radiation that phones emit.

In this country, Rosemarie Young, president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, says cell phones are more often an issue in schools in higher-income neighborhoods where students and their parents can afford them.

But increasingly, she says, schools that once had all-out bans on cell phones are allowing them, at least as students keep them turned off during class.

Experts warn parents health risks unclear

BY DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Parents should think twice before giving in to a middle-schooler's demands for a cell phone, some scientists say, because potential long-term health risks remain unclear.

Researchers have speculated for more than 10 years that the electromagnetic radiation emitted from cell phones may damage DNA and cause benign brain tumors, said Henry Lai, a bioengineering professor at the University of Washington.

"We don't know very much about the health effects of cell phone use on kids, but there are speculations," Lai said.

In Britain, the chairman of the National Radiological Protection Board advised in January that parents should give mobile phones to children age 8 or younger as a precaution against the potential harm of radiation from the devices.

When you use a cell phone, 70 to 80 percent of the energy emitted from the antenna is absorbed by the head, Lai said.

Last week, a federal appeals court in Maryland reinstated five class-action lawsuits claiming that the cell phone industry has failed to protect consumers from unsafe levels of radiation.

Several research studies have pointed to the potential impacts of long-term absorption of cell phone-emitted radiation, but little of the research has focused on the children.

Lai said he was concerned about the impact on children because young skulls are thinner and the growing brain may be more susceptible to radiation.

He also said that potential health risks to tumors usually take 30-40 years to develop, children who use cell phones from their teen years onward would have a longer period of time to see a cumulative impact.

"We don't know if kids are really more susceptible," Lai said, but he encourages everyone to use a headset to keep the antenna away from the brain, "even if they're not cool."

Low-sugar cereals no healthier than regular ones

BY J.M. HIRSCH

The Associated Press

Could this be the end of cereal aisle showdowns between parents and sweet-toothed tots? New reduced-sugar versions of popular children's breakfast cereals — everything from Frosted Flakes to Frosted Flakes — certainly sound promising, but consumers might want to hold off chiming in when Tony the Tiger says, "They're Grr-r-r!"

Experts who reviewed the lower-sugar versions of six major brands of sweetened cereals at the request of The Associated Press found they have no significant nutritional advantages over their full-sugar counterparts.

Nutrition scientists at five universities found that while the new cereals do have less sugar, the calories, carbohydrates, fat, fiber and other nutrients are almost

identical to the full-sugar cereals. That's because the cereal makers have replaced sugar with refined carbohydrates to preserve the crunch.

Officials at General Mills, Kellogg's and Post were unable to explain why the new cereals are a better choice, but noted they give consumers more options about how much sugar they eat.

Company officials said they were responding to parents' demands for products with less sugar and that they aren't claiming these cereals are any healthier than the originals.

That may not be obvious to consumers.

On some boxes, the lower-sugar claim is printed nearly as large as the product's name, and only by carefully comparing the nutrition labels of both versions of a cereal would a shopper know there is little difference between them.

"You're supposed to think it's healthy," said Marion Nestle, a nutrition professor at New York University and author of a book critical of the food industry's influence on public health. "This is about marketing. It is about nothing else. It is not about kids' health."

Only one cereal, General Mills' Cinnamon Toast Crunch, saw a new calorie reduction, dropping from 130 calories to 120 per three-fourths cup serving.

The reduced-sugar versions of Kellogg's Frosted Flakes and Frosted Flakes; General Mills' Cocoa Puffs and Trix; and Post's Fruity Pebbles all have the same number of calories per serving.

Blame the calorie woes on crunch. To preserve cereals' taste and texture, sugar is replaced with other carbs that have the same calories as sugar and are no better for you.



Cereal manufacturers have introduced reduced-sugar versions of some of their more popular breakfast offerings. While the reduced-sugar cereals do have less sugar, they are virtually nutritionally identical to their full-sugar counterparts.

FACES

Hear that rebel yell?

As Billy Idol approaches his 50th birthday, he says he's back for more, more, more

By JIM FARBER

New York Daily News

He may be staring down the barrel of his 50th birthday, but that hasn't put a crimp in Billy Idol's ability to leer.

Ask the famously randy star about his gig at the high-profile South by Southwest festival, which took place Wednesday, and he says, with a snicker, "I'll be playing on-stage with those lovely girls the Donnas, so they're fair game."

Allude to his new single, "Scream," which is about, er, oral pleasures, and Idol says, "Well, 'My Ding-A-Ling' was Chuck Berry's biggest record. So it seemed like a good idea."

In fact, Idol will need a lot of good ideas to rebrand himself as a relevant pop star.

Twelve long years have passed since he last put out an album of original material — an epic wander in the desert that finally ends later this month with the release of "Devil's Playground."

In the intervening time, Idol got on and off crack, overdosed, experienced a life-threatening motorcycle accident, suffered the end of a second long-term relationship, and had a major album project shelved halfway through.

"I was going into a dark place," he says. "I was burned out after 20 years of balls-to-the-walls, blazing, we-don't-give-a-damn, there-sin't-no-future, live-for-now [attitude]. I was losing youthful energy."

He also was turning into a cartoon. With his seemingly permanent sneer and endless fist-pumps plastered all over MTV, Idol started to seem as contrived as his appearance. When grunge came in, he got lumped in with the hair bands as a sexist anachronism.

Idol says things had been going south for a long time due to drugs and overwork. Even during his commercial peak, in 1987, he says, "I can remember staying up for three weeks doing crack. I'd (think) people were filming me and I was hearing people

in the next apartment talking about me."

Watching an MTV interview in 1990, Idol recalls that he thought to himself, "It seems like I'm dead already."

His sales began to slump with 1993's "Cyberpunk." The next year Idol had his OD. His record company, EMI, still wanted him to make a record. But the label and the star had very different ideas of what it should sound like. The singer says they wanted "Billy Idol lite."

Yet Idol says that the project's collapse encouraged his personal turnaround. He wound up spending more time at home, becoming a real father for the first time to his son, now 16.

"Instead of the ivory tower of being in a band, I was actually out there on the baseball diamond (with my son)," he says. "I sang the national anthem for his Little League team. Having to take him to school, having that responsibility, made me deal with real life," he says.

He now feels it was beneficial to his music that his late-'90s record "was shelved." "The worst thing would have been to chase fashion, to make a grunge record or some pop thing to fit in," he says.

Instead, Idol began rebuilding his career with the help of the music that had made him big to begin with. EMI issued a "Greatest Hits" package in 2000, expecting it to sell around 100,000 copies.

But it's sold more than 940,000 so far, according to SoundScan.

Meanwhile, Idol reunited with his main guitarist, Steve Stevens, and began touring again, with mounting success.

Noting the popularity of the hits album, VH1 awarded Idol a "Storytellers" episode, further upping his profile.

Idol says those efforts still milked nostalgia. They didn't argue for a new Idol. It wasn't until a 2003 concert at Hammerstein Ballroom that Sanctuary Records approached Idol about making new music in his older style. That led to a three-album pact.

Billy Idol
Punk rocker

'Dr. J' rejects university trustee role

Basketball Hall of Famer Julius "Dr. J" Erving has turned down an offer to join the University of Massachusetts Board of Trustees after initially calling his appointment a "blessing."

Erving, who played for UMass-Amherst and the Philadelphia 76ers, did not attend any board meetings or take the oath of office as required within 90 days of his five-year appointment. Gov. Mitt Romney appointed him to the board in October and planned to reappoint him. But last week Erving told the governor's office he was not interested in the job.

A spokeswoman for Erving, who lives in Longwood, Fla., said he was not available for comment.

The board oversees operation of the 60,000-student system, selects the president and chancellors, approves academic programs, sets student tuition and fees, and awards



Erving

tenure.

American Idol winner sued by manager

Ruben Studdard's former manager is seeking \$500,000 in damages from the American Idol winner for allegedly failing to pay his management fees and not reimbursing him for expenses.

Ron Edwards' court filing on Friday in Birmingham, Ala., is a counterclaim to the lawsuit Studdard filed in February.

Studdard's suit claims Edwards and his Birmingham marketing and advertising firm, Sez Inc., misused \$246,000 in the year that he worked for Studdard. The suit also accuses Edwards of making unauthorized expenses after he was fired.

Edwards, 46, denied those allegations in his filing.

Edwards' attorney, Glenn Threatt, told the Birmingham News that his client and Studdard, 26, were longtime



Billy Idol performed Wednesday at the 2005 South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas.

KRT

An '80s revival has since kicked into high gear. Motley Crue recently reunited for a sold-out arena tour, and Velvet Revolver brought the musicians from Guns N' Roses back to the top of the charts.

"Watching Slash (come back) gave me hope," Idol says of the Velvet guitarist. "It made me think, 'There's life after death.'"

Yet as a veteran performer seeking a return to the limelight, Idol knows he still has "a lot to prove. Now, I'm following up my own greatest hits," he says.

At least this onetime punk has discovered that 50 isn't fatal.

"It's not all over yet," he asserts. "Not so long as they've got Viagra."

family friends and that Edwards agreed to help Studdard for free before he won American Idol in May 2003.

Monkeying around on 'King Kong' set

Peter Jackson was one of those monkeying around during a party for the film crew remaking the classic movie "King Kong."

The remake of the 1933 classic by New Zealand director Jackson, who directed the fantasy trilogy "Lord of the Rings," was likely to go into post-production within a couple of weeks, publicist Melissa Booth said Monday.

The weekend crew party on a back lot set built to replicate 1930s New York "was essentially our wrap party," she told The Associated Press.

Filming of the \$145 million remake, funded by Universal Pictures, began Sept. 6. The movie is due for release in December.

The cast includes Australian actor Naomi Watts, who plays dancel in distress Ann Darrow; Oscar winner Adrien Brody, the movie's romantic hero Jack Driscoll; and offbeat comedy actor Jack Black, who plays raconteur and filmmaker Carl Denham.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Studdard

Few four-leaf clovers

PA MERCER — George Kaminski, who has spent more than half of his life behind bars, has one more reason to hate prison.

"There are no four-leaf clovers here," Kaminski, 53, told *The Herald of Sharon*.

Kaminski, serving time for crimes including burglary and shooting at a police officer, has collected a world record 72,927 four-leaf clovers since 1995. He found them on the grounds of various Pennsylvania prisons.

But now that he moved to a minimum-security facility with fewer clovers, he's worried about the competition.

Edward Martin Sr., of Soldotna, Alaska, claims to have collected more than 76,000 four-leaf clovers. The 73-year-old retiree has applied to Guinness to be recognized as the new record holder.

Oahu drownings

HI HONOLULU — Honolulu police say they believe a 31-year-old man drowned off Oahu's Waianae Coast while trying to save his 54-year-old companion, who also drowned.

The bodies of Stephen Kumagai and Soledad Samorin were recovered from waters off Lahilahi Point in Makaha.

The Honolulu Medical Examiner's Office has confirmed that the couple died due to drowning.

Kumagai's younger brother, David, said a police detective and a physician at the Medical Examiner's Office told the families that Stephen Kumagai probably jumped into the water to save his girlfriend, who could not swim.

David Kumagai says his brother "died a hero."

Boycott canceled

LA NEW ORLEANS — Leaders of a civil rights group have decided not to pursue a threatened boycott against the city over the death of a black tourist outside a Bourbon Street bar.

The Rev. Charles Steele, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said he is impressed with the way city officials have reacted to the situation.

"I had a better understanding that they know we have a problem, they know that I mean business, and I know they mean business," Steele said after meetings with Mayor Ray Nagin, Police Chief Eddie Compass and clergy leaders.

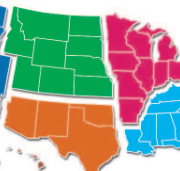
In January, Steele threatened to organize a boycott by black tourists if authorities did not take seriously the idea that racism was part of the reason Levon Jones died in a fight with three white bouncers.

Public service pays

RI PROVIDENCE — One in seven employees at the General Assembly received a pay raise this fiscal year, ranging from \$941 to \$15,423.

The survey done by *The Providence Journal* shows 64 legislative employees have received raises since July 1. The largest raises went to lawyers in House Speaker William Murphy's office. Thirteen workers in the legislature's auditor general's office got raises, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,500 a year.

Two of the raises accompanied



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

promotions to higher-paying jobs, according to Marisa White, the director of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services. One of them was to the wife of House Majority Whip Peter Kilmarin, and reflected her promotion from data analyst to a \$66,564-a-year principal systems analyst job.

Murphy said the pay increases were meant to level legislative employees' salaries with those paid for similar positions in state government. "The process is not yet complete. And that's where we stand," according to a statement from his office.

Animal cruelty bill

TX AUSTIN — Supporters of a proposed bill that would strengthen the state's animal-cruelty laws say loopholes prevent many cases from being prosecuted, including a man who ran over his puppy with a lawnmower.

The bill, however, is opposed by a hunters' group, and farm organizations are studying whether it would affect livestock producers.

The push for stricter legislation is led by the Texas Human Legislation Network and Bell County Attorney Richard J. Miller, both of whom said numerous cases of animal cruelty in recent years have gone unpunished.

Miller said he was unable to prosecute a man who deliberately ran over his puppy with a lawnmower because the cruelty law only covers killing someone else's animal and because the puppy's instant death didn't meet the law's definition of terror.



Eggs-cellent

Abigail Scantlin, of Overland Park, Kan., searches for candy-filled plastic eggs Saturday during the 12th annual Eggstravaganza Easter egg hunt in Leawood, Kan.

A bill by state Rep. Toby Goodman, R-Arlington, would make it an offense for someone to kill his or her own animal in a cruel manner and would extend the law to protect wild animals.

The bill would also make it illegal to kill or injure strays or someone else's livestock or train animals to fight one another — current law requires people to be caught causing animals to fight, according to the humane group.

Public property ban

HI HONOLULU — A Senate committee has advanced a measure to repeal a law opposed by civil rights groups and others because it lets authorities ban people from public property.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill to repeal Act 50, which allows police and other officials to block a person from public property for up to a year after writing a warning or issuing a request for them to leave.

The law was aimed at removing squatters from public campgrounds, parks, beaches and other public places where they illegally put up tents and other temporary shelters.

But its vague language leaves the law open to such abuses as keeping voters out of polling places or barring groups from the grounds of the state Capitol, thereby chilling constitutional rights to free speech, the American Civil Liberties Union has said.

Four die in accidents

NY ROCHESTER — Separate accidents in Wyoming and Monroe counties left four people dead, sheriff's officials said.

The first happened when a driver lost control of his car coming out of a curve on Route 98 in Bennington, flipping several times before striking a building. The driver, 37-year-old David Sheffield of Warsaw, died at the hospital and passenger Alicia Omans, a 27-year-old from Varysburg, was pronounced dead at the scene.

A few hours later, two men were killed when their vehicle struck a tree in Penfield. Both the driver, 20-year-old Adam Fici of Penfield, and passenger Christopher Fici, a 19-year-old from Fairport, died at the scene.

The accidents were under investigation.

She's not dead yet

VA ALEXANDRIA — When social worker Charlene Kyer arrived at Ceguma Thomas's house to check on her one morning, she wasn't able to rouse the woman from bed. Unable to find a pulse, Kyer called the paramedics. They, too, couldn't find a pulse and drove away a few minutes later, leaving Thomas with three police officers to process the scene where she died.

The only problem was, Thomas wasn't dead. "Everyone thought I was dead," the 56-year-old said with a laugh. "It happened before where I quit breathing, and people think I've gone."

After a police officer noticed one of Thomas's eyelids move and another officer heard the sounds of strained breathing, the paramedics were called back to the house. Thomas was taken to the hospital, where she spent four days hooked to intravenous fluids.



Just bubbling over

World-renowned bubble artist Fan Yang breaks his own Guinness World Record by encasing 18 people in a soap bubble at Toys "R" Us Times Square in New York. The event, sponsored by Gazillion Bubbles, was held to kick off National Bubble Week and the arrival of spring.



Proof is in the pudding

Jonah Barrow, 3, makes quick pudding, placing first in a pudding eating competition during Chocolate Fest at the Mall of Abilene in Abilene, Texas.



On their toes

Dancers from Woods School of Irish Dance, South Boston neighborhood in Boston, perform in front of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.



A time to mourn
killed in a fire.

Funeral director Arthur Hickerson releases 11 white doves into the air at Providence Park Cemetery in Marrero, La., at the gravesite of 11 people killed in a fire.



Big gulp
Zookeeper Karen Gibson waters the Houston Zoo's baby elephant Bella, who was born Aug. 17. Warm weather and spring break have drawn large crowds to the zoo.



Hugs for grandpa
Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Travers, of Independence, Mo., a member of the 325th Field Hospital U.S. Army Reserve unit, holds his granddaughter, Nicole Dover, 5, also of Independence, after his unit's flight was greeted by family and friends, in Kansas City, Mo. The unit returned from duty in Afghanistan.



Spring ritual
Members of the Westerly Morris Men dance at dawn in Ledyard, Conn., to celebrate the renewal of spring. The vernal equinox is the moment at which the sun lies precisely above the equator, astronomically marking the beginning of spring. The ceremonial dance shakes off winter's death and promotes fertility in field, flock and man.

Inhaling from aerosol can

MA CORNITH — A 15-year-old high school student collapsed in a study hall after he inhaled the contents of an aerosol can in order to get high, officials said.

The boy received medical attention at a local hospital and was doing fine, said Principal Garry Spencer. He said unspecified disciplinary action was taken against the boy.

Inhaling chemical fumes to get a brief high, a practice called huffing, had been tried by 15 percent of Maine eighth-graders, according to the 2004 Maine Youth Drug and Alcohol Use Survey.

More than 1,400 common items can be huffed, according to the Maine Office of Substance Abuse. Kids usually use aerosol cans to get the chemical high.

Monument to reopen

DC WASHINGTON — The Washington Monument will reopen to the public on April 1 after the completion of security upgrades, the National Park Service announced.

The monument has been closed since Sept. 7, when the \$15 million project began. The security improvements include vehicle barriers and a new lighting system.

Visitors will be able to travel by elevator to the top of the 555-foot tall monument when it reopens, but the surrounding 53 acres will remain off-limits until late June, said Vikki Keys, superintendent of the National Mall and memorial parks.

Robbery spree suspected

NH MANCHESTER — Police believe the same man is responsible for as many as 10 robberies in the city in the last eight months.

The robbery spree started July 8 at a Bank of New Hampshire branch.

The most recent target was a Hannaford's grocery store.

Two other grocery stores and two other banks also have been hit some of them multiple times.

Detectives suspect the same man committed all 10 because the robber in each case was described as a white, stocky man between 5 feet 10 inches and 6 feet tall.

In each case, the robber handed the teller or grocery store clerk a note demanding cash and indicating he had a gun.

However, no weapon ever was displayed.

Texas vanity tax

TX DALLAS — A nip and a tuck could cost Texans a few more bucks, if some state lawmakers get their way.

The state House has passed a 7.5 percent tax on elective cosmetic procedures like facelifts, breast surgery and nose jobs. The bill still needs Senate approval.

"This may bring in more money than oil," joked Wick Allison, publisher and editor of D Magazine, which covers the Dallas fashion and party scene.

Almost 40 percent of U.S. plastic surgeons practice in California, New York, Florida and Texas — a state where fashion and beauty is just as competitive as football and big business.

Giuliani behind stadium

NY NEW YORK — Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani — a longtime advocate for new stadiums for New York's sports teams — is lending his support to the plan to build a new home for the Jets in Manhattan.

Giuliani, who talked about building a West Side stadium for the Jets while he was still in office, is featured in a new commercial promoting the project.

The commercial begins with Giuliani saying "I love New York." The former mayor goes on to assert that the project will help create jobs.

"A city that continues to grow, that continues to build, is a city that can put teachers and firefighters and police officers, tens of thousands of New Yorkers to work," he says.

Before leaving office, Giuliani announced a deal to build new stadiums for both the Mets and the Yankees. The plan was shelved by Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Not ready to retire

TX DALLAS — Low fare carrier Southwest Airlines plans to support a group of pilots who are challenging a federal rule that forces them to retire at 60, a spokesman for the airline said.

Southwest plans to file a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the 1980s regulation that bars airline pilots from flying after they reach 60, regardless of their health, said Ed Stewart, a Southwest spokesman.

"Our thought is that Southwest Airlines has dedicated and talented pilots that are being forced to retire because of chronological age," Stewart said.

The Federal Aviation Administration says the retirement rule is necessary for safety. Officials have argued that pilots lose critical cognitive and motor skills as they age.

Church member charged

NY BINGHAMTON — A 30-year member of a Unitarian Universalist church was arrested for vandalizing its property with anti-gay messages.

Matthew Fox, 49, of Binghamton, was charged with fourth-degree criminal mischief and ordered to have no contact with church officials.

The church discovered vandalism to a banner on the front lawn that said "Civil marriage is a civil right." An anti-gay statement was also chiseled into the sidewalk.

Investigators said Fox admitted to committing the vandalism.

Casino expansion nixed

CA SAN PABLO — An American Indian tribe has shelved plans to build an expanded casino with 2,500 slot machines in the San Francisco Bay area after state lawmakers said it would be too big for the community.

The Lytton Band of Pomo Indians said in a letter to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that they did not think the Legislature would have approved the project.

Instead, the tribe will renovate and install hundreds of new games — but not slot machines — at its existing 70,000-square-foot card-room called Casino San Pablo.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

Spoon-fed 'news' is a source of discontent

Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Public relations morphs into propaganda disguised as news. The public becomes the unwitting victim — both intellectually and financially — as the government seeks to deceive, and the media, particularly broadcast, are helping them do it.

That's the nub of what's going on when the federal government produces and distributes "prepackaged reports" that look like the local evening news. Call it Pollwood.

This abomination apparently began in the Clinton administration.

The Bush administration has doubled its budget and seems to have refined it to an art form.

The biggest problem here is that the audience is unaware that it is watching something produced by the government. It is watching something meant, not to inform, but to spread certain ideas and instill certain beliefs. The audience, likewise, is unaware that this sham is being paid for with their tax dollars.

These video news releases, as they are known, may look the part, but they have nothing to do with journalism.

Yet they are being spoon-fed to the public through alleged journalists. In so doing, to save money and time, dispensers of news are taking these government-delivered pieces and passing them off as their own research and reporting.

They delete information that would inform viewers what government agency has produced and presented this pointed data and purposely leave it to appear as if it were their own. This deceit is shameful.

Of course the material is flattering to the administration; the administration's people are producing it. It's not news; it's public relations.

The apparent hope of its producers is that it will leave a positive impression, one that is probably inaccurate and undesired.

Despite being told by the General Accountability Office, the impartial investigative arm of Congress, that these fake news reports are unacceptable when viewers are unclear on the source of the material, multiple departments have told their people to ignore the GAO's advice to desist.

That means it's up to the media to label them clearly or, better yet, to actually stop using them and do their jobs. They must, without shortcuts, present a fair picture of what they are calling news.

Credibility and veracity still mean something to some of us, but nonchalance and bottom lines have made too many people far too willing to squander that.

It's time the media take responsibility for their part in this debacle. We must change our lazy methods and return to the old-school days of acquiring our own information.



First Amendment and media lawyer Henry Abrams, right, makes a point during a March 11 panel discussion on media access, accuracy and accountability that was part of the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association's editorial conference in Pikeville, Md.

management, nurturing our own sources and relying on our own work to put together and convey the news.

We are, however, in a different age. So it also means that individual viewers

must be aware and on guard as well. Sadly, they must be suspicious. The "news" has to be examined for balance and fairness and it should be monitored for presentations of government propaganda.

5 cents per gallon would reciprocate GI's sacrifice

BY KEVIN C. VOTTA

Whether we like to admit it or not, we are a nation at war and, as President Bush has pointed out, "War has no certainty, except the certainty of sacrifice."

While almost all Americans would love to make some type of sacrifice for their country, the only groups that have been asked to make any sacrifice are the members of our military and their families. Americans are deeply concerned over the financial and emotional hardships the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have put (and will continue to put) on the members of our armed services and their families. Even those who oppose war in general would like to help ease the hardships our servicemembers and their families are facing. Thankfully, lessons of past wars have allowed Americans to understand that, while you may not support the war, you should always support the warrior.

Unlike in past wars, very little sacrifice has been asked of the average American. Surely our soldiers are truly grateful for letters and small contributions, but more needs to be done on a larger scale, especially to help those with families in the States.

In looking at numerous ways to help our soldiers, one solution continuously received support of nearly 90 percent of Americans. That solution was a temporary 5-cent-per-gallon gas tax that would raise nearly \$7 billion per year to be used exclusively to provide tax-free payments to our soldiers and their families and to the families that have lost loved ones fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. This would provide a tax-free payment of \$500,000 to all families that lost a family member and it would provide an annual tax-free payment in the area of \$20,000 to all members of our military serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. When our last soldier comes home (from these conflicts), we can repeat the tax.

Why is a gas tax? The reasons are numerous:

■ First, our soldiers and their families are in need of financial help. Many are re-

servists and National Guardsmen who have lost a substantial part of their income but still have the same bills. Those who are small-business owners are losing their businesses. The long months of separation are hard enough on a marriage, but the financial difficulties can lead to divorce. A small annual payment of a few thousand dollars would help.

■ Second, the family members of our soldiers who are lost in battle currently receive a little more than \$12,000 in "death benefits" from the government. While there are currently efforts in Washington to move that to \$100,000, that is still too low. It needs to be raised to \$500,000. How can we provide millions for each family that lost a loved one in the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedy but only \$12,000 or perhaps \$100,000 to our soldiers' families? There are currently about 1,000 children who have lost a mother or father fighting for our country (in Iraq and Afghanistan) and \$12,000 is barely enough to pay for the food on their table for a year.

■ Third, 90 percent of Americans want to pay this tax. Americans want to feel like they are making a sacrifice for our sol-

diers. This tax would cost the average American in the area of 50 cents per week.

■ Fourth, it helps our soldiers' morale and military recruiting. While soldiers know Americans support them, this would be an excellent way to prove it. It would also let possible recruits know they will not have to worry about any financial difficulties should they be sent overseas to fight for their country.

■ Fifth, it raises \$7 billion for a Department of Defense that is facing tough budget issues and base closings. Either way, officials need to come up with the money for the likely increase in death benefits proposed in Congress. This would allow them to free up that money for other needs.

■ Sixth, it makes us aware that we are a country dependent on oil. While some have proposed a 50-cents- or \$1-per-gallon gas tax, [my organization, Fight for Our Troops and Veterans] believes this would hurt our economy. Most experts believe gas would have to reach \$3.50 a gallon or \$100 per fill-up before buying habits changed. A 5-cents-per-gallon tax might not change buying habits, but it will make drivers aware when they fill up that maybe

they should start driving less or drive a little larger in order to offset the small sacrifice a 5-cent-per-gallon tax would bring.

■ Seventh, with slight pressure (or, as President Bush likes to say, "jawboning") on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to dump additional crude on our market, the 5-cents-per-gallon tax would easily be offset. The likelihood is that OPEC would agree to this, considering its members have been the beneficiaries of past actions performed by our troops.

■ We feel they would do whatever possible to make sure our troops and their families are taken care of.

■ Finally, it is just the right thing to do. This month we celebrated the 140th anniversary of arguably our country's greatest speech, Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural. In his speech, the man who brought freedom to all Americans asked us to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." This temporary tax would allow us to honor his request.

Kevin C. Votta is executive director of the Tampa, Fla.-based Fight for Our Troops and Veterans, a Florida 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping U.S. servicemembers and veterans.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

Love planet Venus dances into Aries with a fanciful "Ta Da!" Some of you get the feeling you have arrived for the first time at love's gate and it opens wide. All the ways you've loved before now seem like puppy stuff. Try not to make rash promises. This too shall pass! Tonight, the moon enters Virgo, bringing our feet slightly closer to the Earth.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(March 22). Your boundless enthusiasm is so attractive this year that you'll attract many admirers. Next month shows you taking the steps necessary to make more money — better education is definitely part of the equation, Singles: The more you expand your mind, the better your love life becomes. Virgo and Libra are especially amorous partners.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're attracted to danger. Someone you like, though very gorgeous, is nonetheless messed up in the head. As the 1980s Poison song goes, "Every rose has its thorn." Decide up front what you can deal with these days.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You know what it feels like to be close to someone in proximity and be miles apart on the inside. Instead of living with uncomfortable feelings, now is the time to bring them into the open. You're well received.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You're the one who brings culture to the ignorant, good manners to the barbarians and taste to the yahoos. Accept your role, and take it seriously. Also take it humorously, fancifully and exuberantly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Why should one person suffer poverty while the world caters to another person's every whim? The injustice of the world strikes a chord deep in your soul, and you are moved to action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's heroism in your actions. You're in a

position to protect those you love — and those you hardly know, too — from some plundering person who is used to taking things by force.

VIRO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're offered the cream of the crop and should not feel one ounce of guilt about this. Take it! It's not every day you can eat your dessert first. Perhaps you can even forgo the vegetables altogether.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're so used to putting others first, at no small cost to yourself, that you could now find out you've been storing up resentful feelings. You matter. Stand up, and be counted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

There are some things about your quirky personality that are difficult to explain. Perhaps a loved one will never understand your emotional attachment to a certain object, but ask for respect and tolerance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Getting just the right mix of people together makes the difference between successful endeavor and a waste of time. Beware of a hyper-sensitive person who could change the dynamic of the whole group.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Open to a little excitement? That's why you'll be sent off on some misadventure while others diligently slog away at the same old, same old. For your trouble, you'll have the best dinner-table story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Get rid of that habit you have that serves no purpose except to kill time. You've outgrown it. As far as friends who can make you feel terrific about yourself, a Capricorn or Aries is just what the doctor ordered.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Events this afternoon are almost burlesque in tone. Something silly may be treated with the utmost seriousness, or something serious is mocked with ridiculous levity. Either way, it's lively entertainment.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes

What happened in Concord in 1775?



Let's be honest, you're asking me about Concord? I knew on this day I'd never find my own home from here. Concord could be the happiest place on earth.



And what happened 220 years ago? In 1783, I don't know what's going on, but I don't have a shield of content for any of this. It's hopeless, his grandson, Hobbes.



We don't try to remember the exact other.



Jump Start

Benny! what have you done?



Sorry Boss. You ate part of my Great Pyramid!



I saw all those sugar cubes and I just had to eat two of 'em.



...so why are four cubes missing?



The Pyramids are shrouded in mystery.

Zits

Do you guys realize that we've been working for ten minutes and nobody has spoken a word?



I'm nervous! I've been totally silent!



Wait! When's the last time that happened?



It was the last time I was in a carpool.



Cathy

You didn't decide what name to use yet?



Of course I did!



At age 5, I decided to use my husband's name.



At age 25, I decided to keep my own name.



Hi and Lois

Go what are you going to have, Lois?



I'll have to get my glasses out to read the menu.



Oops! I accidentally brought the paper bag.



You really need to get out more often.



Beetle Bailey

You wanted to see me, Sir?



Yes, I wanted to bounce a few ideas off you.



There's your idea on paper clip conservation.



And here's your idea on banning alcohol.



Red Rover

Doing a history report on "Carnal Concoction" is turning out to be harder than I thought.



None of these books I checked out of the library on shelves mentions anything about him.



And there are no historical facts in the back of his own cereal box either.



Talk about a modest manner!



Better or Worse

Do you think I'm a good food, food, food?



I'm sorry to hear that. I've heard from your friend that you're a good food, food, food.



She got depressed from her new job and she's thinking about quitting.



How can a person be a good food, food, food?



Peanuts



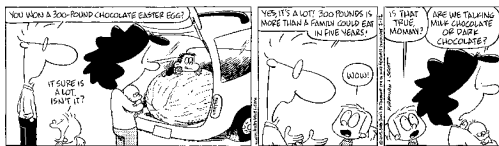
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



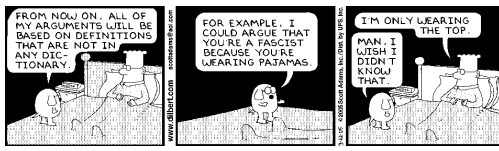
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



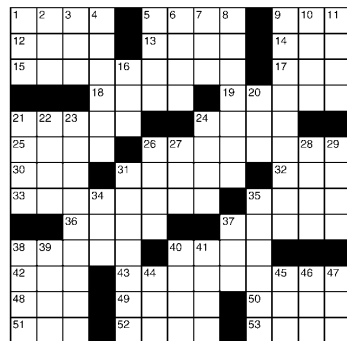
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Dagwood's neighbor
- 5 Greet the villain
- 9 Cistern
- 12 Finished
- 13 Persisting
- 14 "—Blue?"
- 15 Horseman
- 17 "Smoking or —?"
- 18 Move rapidly
- 19 Unstable
- 21 Red-ink entry
- 24 Picasso
- 25 Actor Julia
- 26 You and me, e.g.
- 30 Ninny
- 31 "Nothing —"
- 32 Compete
- 33 Maryland city
- 35 Denomination
- 36 Not counterfeit (abbr.)
- 37 Ankara people
- 38 Whom to cherish
- 40 Hamilton-Burr event
- 42 Commotion
- 43 Boutonniere, often
- 48 Gun the motor
- 49 Just one of those things?
- 50 Farm fraction
- 51 Indivisible
- 52 Type of palm
- 53 Requirement

Down

- 1 Ad — committee
- 2 Actress Longoria
- 3 C.S.A. soldier
- 4 Where the Xingu flows
- 5 Head light
- 6 Thing
- 7 Round Table address
- 8 Warehouse
- 9 Burrard Inlet city
- 10 Uncontrollable
- 11 Wee
- 12 Parcel of land
- 20 Acapulco gold
- 21 Hardly
- 22 Colorful
- 23 1989 rap hit
- 24 "— Lisa"
- 26 Swanly
- 27 Empty (of)
- 28 Shaving mishap
- 29 Collections
- 31 Spots
- 34 Drone
- 35 Bahrain bigwig
- 37 Earl Grey, for one
- 38 Gambling game
- 39 Paradise
- 40 Haul clumsily
- 41 Golden Rule word
- 44 "Eureka!"
- 45 Lemieux milieu
- 46 Raw rock
- 47 Homer's neighbor

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-22

CRYPTOQUIP

H'KL MVQ RMHI TVDPL
IMVKHSP IYVD JFD QLYVQLI
RMVR H THOL RF DLJLD

RF VI "FTQ SHYO."
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF SOMEONE STOLE A SAUSAGE, CONCERNED PEOPLE COULD HELP LOOK FOR THE MISSING LINK.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals I

'Harmless' talk not so harmless

Dear Abby: In response to "Conversational Speaking," a reader who complained about being ostracized for talking up in restaurants, you suggested that the couple engage in some "wild dialogue" for entertainment purposes, such as "how to spend their drug money" or which girl you planned to send on the next "call."

As a police officer who has had to waste significant time and resources following up on such reports of "suspicious behavior," I'm surprised you would encourage such an irresponsible action. Our nation's homeland security is of paramount importance these days, and our governing leaders have requested help from the public in "remaining vigilant" and reporting suspicious behavior to the proper authorities.

Fifty lashes with a wet noodle

Dear Abby



to you for failing to consider the consequences of your ill-advised recommendation. What were you thinking?

— Dan Hoffman, Deputy Chief, Fairbanks (Alaska) Police Dept.

Dear Deputy Chief Hoffman: I was thinking about having some fun, not about homeland security.

In the light of the sober times we live in, however, I probably should have played it straighter. On a lighter note, quite a few readers wrote to describe how they have handled the situation. Read on for a couple samples:

Dear Abby: I had

the same experience. Since everyone at my table was in the medical field, I began describing an extremely grisly autopsy I had been involved in. Within five minutes, the couple at the nearby table had paid their bill and left their food. While they

may have not been "cured" of listening, they certainly got their "dose" of reality.

— Stephen in the Woodlands, Texas

Dear Stephen: Your cave-dwapper must not have been fans of the currently popular TV crime series and their spin-offs.

Dear Abby: My husband and I have a suggestion. Talk about "Aunt Tilly's" recent operation with details so graphic that only the strongest stomach could hold its contents. Or, perhaps, mention "Cousin Mandy's" little by throwing up on the wedding cake at someone's reception.

— Margaret in Swoope, VA.

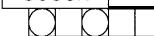
Dear Margaret: That could, indeed, work.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

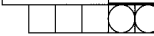
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOUCH

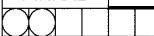


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CHATY

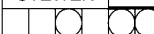


PINKAD



www.jumble.com

STEWEN



Answer: " _ _ _ _ _ " " _ _ _ _ _ " IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OLDER TWEAK FANISH EFFORT

Answer: Why the door-to-door salesman was spurned — HE 'ASKED' FOR IT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Prostitute visits devastate wife

Dear Annie: This letter is for the men in your reading audience. I have been married to "Buddy" for over 20 years, I thought we had a satisfying, wonderful sex life, but Buddy recently told me about several encounters he's had with prostitutes.

I am devastated, sad, angry, hurt — you name it. He has tremendous remorse, regret and guilt. We are contemplating staying together and working through all of the layers of pain that such betrayal causes. I don't know if I can do it, but I want to try.

I am so hurt and so afraid that those sexual experiences have diminished what we had. I'm fearful Buddy will remember the "talents" of these women, not to mention their youth and bodies, and compare me unfavorably. I'm attractive and thought I was plenty adventuresome, willing and provocative in bed. I was sure I was a satisfied man. He certainly satisfied me.

Buddy has had zillions of disap-

Annie's Mailbox



pointments in his life and suffers from low self-esteem. My question is for men who have strayed with prostitutes. Did you find yourself comparing them to your wives? Were you not content at home?

— Needing to Know

Dear Needing: Have you asked Buddy these questions? Although some men may choose prostitutes because they are unhappy at home, we suspect that is not the case here. First, you are doing yourself a disservice. Prostitutes are not necessarily young or attractive. They are simply willing and non-judgmental. Does Buddy have a fetish or sexual proclivity that he doesn't want you to know about? We are glad you are getting counseling, and we hope you have been checked for sexually transmitted diseases. If we receive any responses to your questions, we will let you know.

Dear Annie: I like fast food. However, there is one facet that I have never seen addressed: the use of sesame seeds on the buns of fast-food sandwiches. Evidently, some purveyors of such food have never felt the agony of having one of these seeds caught beneath dentures. I'd bet these seeds compensate for the lack of ability in making buns — they cover a lot of mistakes.

— A Whopper of a McOuch

in a Bag
Dear Whopper: Most fast-food places are trying to please their customers by offering a wider variety of menu items. We spoke to Joe Gerbino at Burger King and Antonio Hernandez at McDonald's. Both said their companies try hard to accommodate their customers. They suggested explaining to the server that you cannot eat sesame seeds and asking for another type of bun.

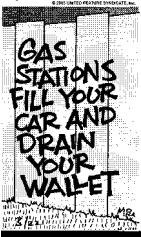
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



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GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



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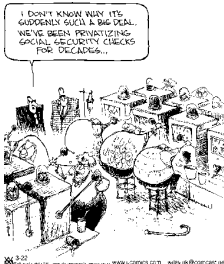
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The Far Side



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Non Sequitur



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Summitt on verge of reaching top

Lady Vols coach ties Dean Smith with 879th career victory

By ELIZABETH A. DAVIS

The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Pat Summitt would rather count the number of players, assistants and friends she's had during her 31 years at Tennessee than all the victories.

Summitt tied former North Carolina men's coach Dean Smith for the most victories in NCAA history — 879 — as Tennessee beat Western Carolina 94-43 on Sunday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"It's really not about a number," Summitt said. "It's about people — the people here at the university, the administration, all the great assistant coaches I've had, the loyal people who have stuck by me for years, the people I work with in the office and certainly all the players."

"When you think about women's basketball, we have a list of who's who — All-Americans, Olympians and people of impact in this game."

Summitt has a chance to surpass Smith when top-seeded Tennessee (27-4) faces Purdue in the second round Tuesday night, with the winner advancing to the regional semifinals in Philadelphia. Summitt is 879-171; Smith was 879-254 in 36 years with the Tar Heels.

Tennessee senior Shyra Ely said she was glad to be part of Summitt's victories.

"I just think it's huge not only for women's basketball, but college basketball," Ely said. "I think it's awesome that she's representing the entire basketball nation."

Coincidentally, Western Carolina's coach was around for a good chunk of Summitt's victories. Kellie Harper was the point guard on Tennessee's three



Tennessee coach Pat Summitt talks with guard Alexis Hornbuckle during Sunday's first-round NCAA tournament game against Western Carolina in Knoxville, Tenn. Tennessee defeated Western Carolina 94-43.

straight national title teams from 1996-98.

"Pat Summitt is huge for the women's basketball game," Harper said. "She's been a pioneer, a legacy, a legend — all of those adjectives. And now, her tying Dean Smith allows her legacy to move over to basketball, not just women's basketball, and I think a person like Pat Summitt needs to be a legend in the game of basketball."

Harper received a standing ovation when she walked onto the court, but couldn't do much to help her team stay with the Lady Vols.

The 16th-seeded Catamounts

(18-14) were undersized and out-matched from the beginning.

The Lady Vols increased the lead to 18-3 with 13:47 left before halftime, and had a 19-2 run that gave them a 29-point advantage with 4½ minutes left in the first half. The margin hit 49 on Brittany Jackson's three-pointer with 12:36 to go.

Shanna Zolman tied a career high with 28 points. Ely had 12 points and 10 rebounds as Alexis Hornbuckle added 11 points and 12 rebounds.

And, in one of Summitt's favorite statistics, the Lady Vols out-rebounded Western Carolina 57-36. Chevon Keith and Monique Dawson each had nine points to

lead the Catamounts, who won the Southern Conference tournament to earn the school's first NCAA bid.

Summitt, who tops all women's coaches with an 86-177 NCAA tournament record, began coaching at age 22 when teams didn't offer scholarships. She's been at the top of the women's game for years with six national titles and 15 Final Four appearances.

Summitt tied Smith on Tennessee's home court at Thompson-Boling Arena, where the Lady Vols are 252-14 since it opened in 1987. Tennessee has never lost an NCAA game in Knoxville, giving 45-0 since the women's tournament began in 1982.



Liberty's Katie Freeman, right, and Rima Margueviciute celebrate their 78-70 win over Penn State on Sunday in College Park, Md.

Liberty women upset Penn State for first NCAA tournament victory

By DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Put the team bus in the garage, and keep it there until at least Tuesday.

For the first time in school history, Liberty won't be going home after the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The Flames outshouted and outplayed perennial powerhouse Penn State in a 78-70 upset Sunday night, taking control with a 16-1 run and then holding on with a solid performance at the free-throw line.

It was only the fourth time in tournament history that a 13th seed defeated a No. 4 seed, and this one could not have been more improbable.

Liberty (25-6) was 0-8 in the tournament, and this was the first

time in four tries that Penn State failed to reach the Sweet 16 as a No. 4 seed.

"We've been trying to get this one for nine games," Flames coach Carey Green said. "It's been a process. This happens to be the No. 1 greatest win in our history."

Katie Feenstra had 22 points and 11 rebounds and Rima Margueviciute contributed 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Big South champions, who will next face DePaul (26-4) on Tuesday night.

Penn State (19-11) lost in the opening round for the first time in four appearances since 2001. The Nittany Lions shot 37 percent from the floor and were out-rebounded 39-35.

"We're certainly disappointed because it's not the end of the season that we anticipated," said Penn State coach Rene Portland, who was denied a 23rd season

with at least 20 victories. "I want to thank our seniors for a great run, it's hard on them because their season is over and their time at Penn State is over."

No one on the team expected to lose to a Liberty squad that last month lost at home against High Point.

"I'm extremely disappointed. We never wanted to go out this way," said Penn State senior guard Tanisha Wright, who scored 19 but went 5-for-19 from the field. "They just wanted it more than we did, and it showed. They got a ton of offensive rebounds, and we just didn't do it right. We had the opportunities."

Allison Fasnacht scored 18 for the Flames, who have won six straight and 18 of 19. Liberty made only two baskets in the first 7:59, but sank 13 free throws — including eight of their last nine — during that span.



Women's NCAA tournament

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

At Resound Arena

Dallas

Middle Tennessee State 60, North Carolina State 58
Texas Tech 69, Texas-Arlington 49
Purdue 68, New Mexico 56
Tennessee 84, Western Carolina 43
Temple 66, Louisiana Tech 61
Rutgers 62, Hartford 27
Ohio State 86, Holy Cross 45
Maryland 65, Wisconsin-Green Bay 55

Second Round

Middle Tennessee State (24-8) vs. Texas Tech (23-7)
Tennessee (27-4) vs. Purdue (17-12)
Temple (26-3) vs. Rutgers (26-6)
Maryland (22-9) vs. Ohio State (22-6)

Semifinals

Middle Tennessee State/Texas Tech vs. Tennessee/Purdue
Temple/Rutgers vs. Maryland/Ohio State

Tuesday, March 29

CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

At the Omni

Texas 64, Oral Roberts 47
Georgia 75, Rice 49
Arizona 72, Oklahoma 69
LSU 70, Seton Hall 66
DePaul 79, Virginia Tech 78
Liberty 78, State 51
Duke 86, Canisius 48
Boston College (28-9) vs. Duke (29-4)

Second Round

Georgia (29-3) vs. Texas (29)
Tennessee (27-4) vs. Purdue (17-12)
LSU (20-2) vs. Seton Hall (11)
DePaul (26-6) vs. Liberty (24-6)
Boston College (28-9) vs. Duke (29-4)

Semifinals

Saturday, March 26
LSU/Arizona vs. DePaul/Liberty
Georgia/Texas vs. Boston College/Duke

Monday, March 28

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL

First Round

Saturday, March 19

Southern California 65, Louisville 49
Michigan State 73, Akron State 41
Iowa 72, Utah 51
Stanford 54, Santa Clara 57
Arizona State 79, Bowling Green 60
Vanderbilt 67, Montana 44

Sunday, March 20

Richmond 55, Dartmouth 47
Florida State 67, Connecticut 47

Second Round

Michigan State (29-3) vs. Southern California (26-10)
Utah (26-7) vs. Stanford (30-2)
Vanderbilt (23-7) vs. Kansas State (24-7)

Tuesday, March 22

Florida State (24-7) vs. Connecticut (24-7)
Michigan State/Southern California vs. Vanderbilt/Kansas State
Fla. State/Connecticut vs. Utah/Stanford

Semifinals

Tuesday, March 29
Championships
Saturday, March 19
Virginia 73, Old Dominion 57
Minnesota 64, Iowa 53
Arizona State 67, Eastern Kentucky 65
Iowa State 61, Santa Barbara 51
Baylor 91, Illinois State 70
Oregon 58, Texas Christian 62

Sunday, March 20

North Carolina 97, Coppin State 65
George Washington 60, Mississippi 57

Second Round

George Washington (65) vs. Mississippi (57)
Virginia (22-10) vs. Minnesota (25-7)
Arizona State (22-8) vs. Notre Dame (27-5)

Tuesday, March 22

North Carolina (21-9) vs. Baylor (28-3)
Oregon (22-3) vs. George Washington (23-8)

Semifinals

North Carolina/George Washington vs. Arizona State/Notre Dame
Virginia/Minnesota vs. Oregon/Baylor

Championships

Tuesday, April 5
Championships
The FINAL FOUR
At RCA Dome
Indiana
Semifinals
Saturday, April 3
Chattanooga Regional champion vs. Temple Regional champion
Philadelphia Regional champion vs. Kansas City Regional champion

Singh gets No. 1 rank but Perry gets trophy

BY DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Vijay Singh didn't get to No. 1 in the world by playing it safe.

Having made up a three-shot deficit in three holes, he stood in the middle of the 18th fairway in the Bay Hill Invitational tied for the lead with Kenny Perry, with 174 yards and a big pond separating him from the flag.

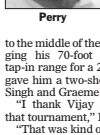
"I was trying to win the golf tournament," Singh said.

He had to settle for a return to No. 1. The trophy went to Perry, who survived a stunning charge Sunday.



Singh

He was going at the stick... and it looked like it was just going to fly right next to the hole. That was a huge break for me."



Perry

Perry played it safe, hitting to the middle of the green and lagging his 70-foot putt down to tap-in range for a 2-under 70 that gave him a two-shot victory over Singh and Graeme McDowell.

"I thank Vijay for giving me that momentum," Perry said.

"That was kind of a nice way to win, knowing I could play left [of the water] and three-putt to win the golf tournament."

He wasn't a complete charity case. Perry was accurate off the tee, and occasionally longer than Singh.

Perry finished at 12-under 276 and won for the eighth time in his career; this one worth \$900,000.

Singh replaced Tiger Woods at No. 1, which was not nearly as dramatic as the conclusion of the tournament. All of the 42-year-old Fijian had to do was finish fourth because Woods was chopping his way around Bay Hill and finished out of the top 20 for the second straight year.

But while Singh once obsessed about being No. 1, he now cares only about winning.

After and his second runner-up finish in two weeks, the news that he was back on top in the world ranking was small consolation.

"Big deal," Singh said after closing with a 69. "I lost the tournament."



Macon Telegraph/NTK

Carl Edwards takes a celebratory backflip off his car after winning the Golden Corral 500 on Sunday at the Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. Edwards, who is running a full schedule in Nextel Cup and Busch Series this season, won both series' races at the track over the weekend.

Edwards completes Atlanta sweep

Driver becomes first to win first Nextel, Busch races in same weekend

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — Carl Edwards had quite a weekend.

Two races. Two victories. Two backflips.

NASCAR's newest star pulled off an unprecedented sweep at Atlanta Motor Speedway, racing to his first Nextel Cup victory Sunday — a day after he won his first Busch Series race.

Edwards pulled off a daring move on Jimmie Johnson coming off the final turn and beat him to the line by about half a car length to win the Golden Corral 500.

"We're on a mission," the 25-year-old Missouri driver said. "We're here to win races."

Edwards became the first driver to capture his first victory in NASCAR's top two series on the same weekend.

Get used to it. He's an immensely talented driver who honed his skills on the dirt tracks of the Midwest. Johnson noticed the potential when Edwards moved up to the Cup series for the final 13 races last season.

"You can see his intensity, his car control," Johnson said. "This guy is our next superstar."

He's also quite a showman. After both victories, Edwards climbed out of his car in front of the main grandstand, balanced himself on the window ledge and did a backflip onto the asphalt.

"It would be a shame not to enjoy it a little bit," he said. "I'm just trying to have a good time."

Johnson, going for his second win in a row, grabbed the lead from Edwards with 25 laps left and appeared to be strong enough to hold it all the way to the finish.

But, on the final lap, Edwards

got a great run coming out of Turn 2 and pulled up on Johnson's back bumper. Johnson went high coming through Turns 3 and 4, trying to block his challenger, but Edwards went even higher.

Edwards hugged the wall and traded paint with Johnson's car as they roared through the trioval. Johnson bobbled slightly just a few feet from the finish, and Edwards slipped by on the outside to win by a minuscule 0.028 seconds.

It was another head-to-head duel between Roush Racing (Edwards) and Hendrick Motorsports (Johnson). The two powerful teams have split the first four races this season, and their drivers occupy the top five spots in the point standings.

After racing tracks most of last year, Edwards is running a full

schedule in the Cup and Busch series, trying to gain as much experience as possible. Clearly, he's a quick learner.

Greg Biffle held on for third, followed by Mark Martin and Kasey Kahne.

Johnson led a race-high 156 laps, followed by Biffle with 151.

Edwards was out front for only nine laps, but ran strongly all day. At least Johnson shook off the embarrassment of being docked 25 points and losing his series lead because his Chevrolet failed inspection after winning last week's race at Las Vegas.

"We were thinking about Victory Lane and being able to smile over our critics and everyone who thought we were doing something goofy last weekend," Johnson said. "We're going to prove what this team is capable of and change the impression some people may have of the team."

Sorenstam goes to playoff to win fourth straight

The Associated Press

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Annika Sorenstam won her fourth straight LPGA Tour start, making up four strokes in the last three holes and then beating Lorena Ochoa on the first hole of a playoff in the Safeway International on Sunday.

Sorenstam's victory — the 58th of her LPGA Tour career — was her second in as many events since her second and sixth in her last eight

tournaments. Sorenstam finished with a 2-under-par 70 to match Ochoa (74) at 11-under 277.

Sorenstam, the four-time LPGA player of the year and scoring record-setter, won her season debut in Mexico City two weeks ago, dashing the 23-year-old Ochoa's dream of a victory in her native land.

Sorenstam, the defending champion, was 18 under last year. This year's \$210,000 first prize boosted her to \$390,000 on the money list and sent her LPGA-record career total past \$16 million.

Johnson wins Toshiba Senior

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — Former California amateur star Mark Johnson won in just his 14th start on the Champions Tour, shooting a 1-under 70 for a

four-stroke victory in the Toshiba Senior Classic.

The 50-year-old Johnson, the qualifying tournament winner known as the "Beer Man" because he drove a Budweiser truck for 18 years before turning pro, had a 13-under 200 total on the Newport Beach Country Club course.

Keith Fergus (71) and Wayne Levi (70) tied for second at 9 under.

Golf roundup

Durham, 67, retires after 633 victories

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville's Hugh Durham retired Monday, the school announced, ending a 45-year coaching career during which he took two schools to the NCAA tournament's Final Four.

Sports briefs

Durham, 67, retires with a career record of 633-429 (.596) after his final team finished 16-13. He's 25th on the career victory list.

Durham was 106-119 in eight seasons at Jacksonville following stints at Florida State, where he was 230-95 from 1960 to 1978, and Georgia, where he was 297-215 from 1979 to 1995.

He took Florida State to the NCAA title game in 1972, losing to UCLA, and Georgia to the tour-

namment semifinals in 1983, falling to eventual champion North Carolina State.

Racing hall nominates 20 under new rules

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — Jockeys Jose Santos and Eddie Maple, trainer Nick Zito and 1997 Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm lead the class of nominees for induction into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame.

Santos, a four-time national leader in earnings, helped propel Funny Cide onto the national scene in 2003, riding to victories in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness before his shot at the Triple Crown fell short in the Belmont. Santos has also ridden six Breeders' Cup winners.

Maple has more than 4,000 career victories, including two Bel-

monts. He was also in the saddle for the famed Secretariat's final race, a 6½-length victory in the Canadian International in 1973. Regular rider Ron Turcotte was serving a suspension.

Zito trained Birdstone to a Belmont victory last year, adding the final leg of the career Triple Crown to his earlier Kentucky Derby victories with Strike the Gold (1991) and Go for Gin (1994) and a Preakness victory with Louis Quatorze (1996).

The 2005 slate is the first selected using rules similar to the Baseball Hall of Fame. The 163 voters will pick up to three finalists in each category. To be inducted, an individual must be named on at least 75 percent of ballots received.

If more than one nominee reaches 75 percent, the one with the higher percentage will be the sole inductee in that category. If

no candidate receives 75 percent, the category will not have an inductee this year.

Mayor says London second to Paris in 2012 chase

LONDON — London Mayor Ken Livingstone claims the British capital is assured of at least 25 votes in the first round of balloting July 6 to pick the host city of the 2012 Olympics.

During its meeting in Singapore, the International Olympic Committee will pick a host from among Paris, New York, Madrid, Moscow and London.

Livingstone, a key booster of London's bid, said Paris remains the front-runner.

"At most, Paris has got about 30 votes," Livingstone said Monday during a BBC radio interview. "We have 25 votes and none of the other cities has more than

20, and we've got about 30 to 40 delegates yet to express an opinion."

The full IOC assembly will vote by secret ballot. As many as 117 members should be eligible to vote.

The city receiving the fewest number of votes will be eliminated in the first round. Voting continues until one city achieves a majority. The key to victory is picking up votes in the second and third rounds.

Livingstone didn't say where he got his information. It's unusual for bid officials to speak publicly about voting figures, and most IOC members don't give away their intentions.

"We've closed the gap on Paris, but the truth is, Paris is still ahead," Livingstone said. "No city is close to a majority on the first ballot."

Paris bid committee member on trial

PARIS — A member of Paris' Olympic bid committee was among 47 people who went on trial Monday in a major political corruption case.

Guy Dru, also an IOC member and former French sports minister, is accused in a party funding scandal dating to the 1990s. Dru, one of four former ministers charged, denies wrongdoing.

The case centers on a secret deal under which companies allegedly funneled millions of dollars in kickbacks to France's major political parties in exchange for contracts to build and renovate schools. Dru is accused of receiving thousands of dollars in kickbacks between 1990 and 1993.

The Paris bid committee had no comment on the case Monday, committee spokesman Jerome Lenfant said.

IOC president Jacques Rogge and the IOC ethics commission have been aware of the case for at least seven months, IOC spokesman Giselle Davies said.

Dru, the 1976 Olympic champion in the 110-meter hurdles, was sports minister from 1995-97 and has been an IOC member since 1996.

WADA would appeal Greek sprinters' exoneration

PARIS — The head of the World Anti-Doping Agency would appeal the Greek decision to clear sprinters Kostas Kentenris and Katerina Thanou of evading drug tests if the sport's governing body doesn't take such an action.

WADA chief Dick Pound said Monday he would take the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport if the International Association of Athletics Federations doesn't contest the ruling.

Kentenris and Thanou were exonerated by the Greek track and field federation last Friday of dodging drug tests the eve of last summer's Athens Olympics. They still face criminal charges related to the missed drug test and a motorcycle accident they allegedly faked to avoid the test.

The IAAF expressed surprise at the decision and said its doping review board will study the ruling. The IAAF could accept the verdict, or reject it and appeal to CAS.

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Williams, Mondesi hear; Mets deal

The Associated Press

The New York Yankees' Bernie Williams and Atlanta's Raul Mondesi could be out a short time with injuries. The New York Mets acquired Kazuhisa Ishii to replace Steve Trachsel, who's expected to be out a few months.

Williams strained his upper back during batting practice Sunday before the New York Yankees lost 5-3 to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays at St. Petersburg, Fla., and is expected to miss at least a couple games.

"Hopefully, it's nothing serious," manager Joe Torre said. "He'll get treatment. That's all that's planned right now. We'll have to wait until tomorrow to see what it feels like."

The Yankees were also without Derek Jeter, who bruised his left foot on a foul ball Saturday. He was sore Sunday, but X-rays were negative.

At Kissimmee, Fla., Mondesi injured his hamstring while running out a double during the Atlanta Braves' 2-1 loss to a St. Louis Cardinals split squad. The right fielder is expected to miss at least a few games, but plans to be ready for opening day.

"The doctor says one week at the most," Mondesi said.

At Port St. Lucie, Fla., with Trachsel out 3-6 months following back surgery, the Mets traded reserve catcher Jason Phillips to the Los Angeles Dodgers for the left-handed Ishii. Ishii will step into the No. 5 spot in the rotation behind Pedro Martinez, Tom Glavine, Kris Benson and Victor Zambrano.

"We were able to get a guy who has won. And I like having two lefties in the rotation. It gives us good balance," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said.

Ishii went 13-8 with a 4.71 ERA in 31 starts last season for Los Angeles. Often erratic, he walked 98 batters in 172 innings. He is 36-25 with a 4.30 ERA in three seasons with the Dodgers since coming over from Japan.

At Winter Haven, Fla., Philadelphia outfielder Marlon Byrd and catcher Mike Lieberthal were injured during a 9-7 loss to the Cleveland Indians. Byrd dislocated his right elbow while on the bench for his first pick-off attempt. Lieberthal was hit on the left elbow by a pitch in the first inning and was replaced in the fifth after he experienced some dizziness. He's expected to return to the lineup Tuesday or Wednesday.

Jon Lieber outpitched Jake Westbrook in a matchup of opening day starters, but Travis Hafner hit a three-run homer in the eighth for Cleveland.

In other spring training games:



Seattle's Randy Winn tries in vain to catch a homer by Arizona's Troy Glaus on Sunday.

Mets (ss) 10, Dodgers (ss) 9: At Port St. Lucie, Pedro Martinez pitched five innings and Eric Valent hit a three-run homer in the ninth to win. New York closer Brandon Loper blew his second save in three days.

Mets (ss) 5, Orioles 1: At Port Landersdale, Fla., Andres Galaraga and Ramon Castaneda pitched five innings for the Mets. Ginter allowed one hit and an unearned run in four innings.

Twins 7, Tigers (ss) 5: At Port Myers, Fla., Totti Hunter and Michael Cuddyer homered for Minnesota, which played nearly all its regulars and finished with 14 hits.

Blue Jays 4, Reds 1: At Dunedin, Fla., Josh Towers pitched five innings for Toronto, allowing two runs and five hits.

Astros 6, Marlins 3: At Jupiter, Fla., Florida right-hander Ismael Valdez struggled when he tried to go an extra inning. Valdez allowed two runs over the first four innings before giving up four in the fifth. Brandon Backe gave up two runs and three hits in five innings to earn the win.

Nationals 9, Dodgers (ss) 3: At Vero Beach, Fla., Livan Hernandez threw six scoreless innings and Gary Bennett hit a grand slam in the eighth.

Pirates 5, Red Sox 3: At Bradenton, Fla., Oliver Perez, slowed earlier in camp by shoulder stiffness, lasted four innings in his second spring training start, then was told he would start Pittsburgh's April 4 opener against Milwaukee.

Tigers (ss) 6, Cardinals (ss) 4: At Lakeland, Fla., starting pitchers Chris Carpenter and Jason Johnson struggled. Rich Ankiel, the former pitcher who switched to the outfield earlier this spring, was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts as the Cardinals' DH. Carlos Guillen, the Tigers' All-Star shortstop, and second baseman Omar Infante both played defense for the first time this spring.

Mariners 7, Diamondbacks (ss) 7, tie: At Tucson, Ariz., Javier Vazquez retired the first 16 batters for Arizona and Greg Dobbs hit a grand slam for Seattle.

Brewers 8, Rangers 5: At Phoenix, Ben Sheets allowed three runs in three innings for Milwaukee during his third outing of the spring. Texas starter Ricardo Rodriguez boosted his bid for the No. 5 spot in the rotation by throwing five scoreless innings.

Padres (ss) 9, Cubs 5: At Peoria, Ariz., Brian Giles and Mark Loretta each hit three-run homers and Khalil Greene added a shot for San Diego. Nomar Garciaparra hit two home runs, but committed three of the Cubs four errors.

Padres (ss) 17, Diamondbacks (ss) 9: At Yuma, Ariz., Brett Bonvechio kept a seven-run, six-inning with a three-run homer for San Diego and second baseman Jesse Garcia went 4-for-6 with two singles, a double and a triple.

Athletics 17, Giants 3: At Phoenix, Barry Zito gave up four hits and a run over six innings, and Eric Chavez and Bobby Kielty each hit three-run homers and Erubiel Durazo had a two-run shot off Jason Schmidt, who gave up 10 runs and nine hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Rockies, 6, Royals 3: At Surprise, Ariz., Jason Jennings struck out six in five innings and Dustan Mohr and Brad Hawpe each homered in a four-run fifth for Colorado. Kansas City right-hander Mike Wood retired all 12 batters he faced and struck out four, including the side in the first inning.

Angels 4, White Sox 3: At Tempe, Ariz., Casey Kotchman had an RBI double and Robby Quinlan hit a go-ahead two-run single for Los Angeles. Brandon McCarthy worked five innings and struck out four.

NY in line for 2010 Super Bowl maybe

By BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — The 2010 Super Bowl could be approved for New York during the NFL owners meetings this Sunday.

Several team owners said Sunday they would look favorably on placing the championship game in New York for the first time. But it's still a big uncertainty because the city would need to have an indoor stadium.

Considering what a political football the project for Manhattan's West Side has become, construction of such a home for the Jets is very problematic.

Commissioner Paul Tagliabue supports staging a Super Bowl in New York and the NFL's Super Bowl committee has tentatively agreed. The league will hold its third cold-weather Super Bowl next February in Detroit — in-

doors, of course. Never has New York had a bigger chance at snaring the host's role.

The Jets will make a presentation to all 32 owners either Monday or Tuesday for conditional approval of the 2010 Super Bowl in New York.

"The Jets submitted the resolution, contingent on the West Side stadium being built and ready for the 2010 Super Bowl," league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Among the obstacles to getting approval could be the fact the team won't play in the stadium until the 2009 season. NFL rules require a stadium to have been in use for two years before it hosts a Super Bowl, something Houston complied with in 2004 and Detroit will have done so next year.

The Jets would not have done so. Among the obstacles to getting approval could be the fact the team won't play in the stadium until the 2009 season. NFL rules require a stadium to have been in use for two years before it hosts a Super Bowl, something Houston complied with in 2004 and Detroit will have done so next year.

strong opposition from community groups and the owners of Madison Square Garden, who also are bidding for the land on which the stadium would be built.

Without the stadium, New York also won't have a chance of hosting the 2012 Olympics.

The Jets have committed \$800 million for the stadium project, with the city and state required to raise the rest of what is planned to be a \$1.5 billion total. Critics say it will be substantially higher.

Also on the agenda this week will be an update to the owners by Tagliabue on the prime-time television contract that expires after the 2005 season. CBS and Fox have renewed their AFC and NFC contracts for a combined \$8 billion over six years. But ABC and ESPN are still haggling over the prime-time packages, and several other networks publicly have stated an interest in being involved if ABC/ESPN drop out.

Owners also will look at several player safety issues and discuss a possible alteration to pass interlocking penalties.

Tagliabue will broach the collective bargaining agreement negotiations in his State of the NFL speech. There has been some movement in talks with the NFL Players Association to extend the contract that expires in 2008. The key issue is expanding the pool for the salary cap — and thus the pool from which the players get their money — to include additional revenue sources teams previously have kept for themselves.

An agreement in principle to expand the pool has been reached, but the main unresolved point is what percentage will go to the players.

"When it comes down to it, it's still about money," said Harold Henderson, the NFL's executive vice president for labor relations. "There's still quite a way to go on that."

B, union drop fines for steroids

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After listening to criticism from Congress, baseball players and owners agreed to drop the possibility of fines for steroid use and leave suspensions as the only discipline.

Members of Congress repeatedly pummeled baseball officials for the fine possibility during Thursday's hearing before the House Government Reform Committee. Management told the committee it was willing to eliminate the fine provision, held over from baseball's first drug-testing agreement in 2002, but union head Donald Fehr said he would have to consult his players.

"We do have an agreement with Don that the language after the disjunctive in the various disciplinary levels is going to be eliminated," Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president for labor relations, said Sunday. "It will be just the straight suspension, which everybody knew was going to happen anyway. To the degree there was any doubt, I think this change should put to rest any concerns in the regulatory area." Players and owners announced the agreement Jan. 13, but it hasn't been finalized.

"The agreement still has to be ratified, but the negotiators have agreed to modify that language," said Michael Weiner, the union's general counsel.

Commissioner Bud Selig repeatedly said during the hearing that his intent was to suspend players for all positive tests.

"We're glad the policy is now closer to what it was purported to be," David Marin, spokesman for committee chairman Tom Davis, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "If our inquiry achieves nothing more than getting baseball to give its policy the teeth it said it had, we will have done some real good."

Baseball's new agreement had called for a 10-day suspension or up to \$10,000 fine for a first positive test. A second positive was to result in a 30-day suspension or up to \$25,000 fine, a third in a 60-day suspension or up to \$50,000 fine and a fourth in a one-year suspension or up to \$100,000 fine.

After that, discipline is determined by the commissioner.

Now, it's suspensions only. Earlier Sunday, Sen. John McCain said he thought legislation may be needed to force a tougher plan.

"It just means to me they can't be trusted," the Arizona Republican told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. "It seems to me that we ought to seriously consider ... a little bit of legislation. The reports have a minimum level of performance-enhancing drug testing."

Davis said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that he agreed with McCain's suggestion that the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency could be asked to govern baseball's testing. The U.S. Olympic Committee is testing and discipline for U.S. Olympic athletes.

SPORTS



League to consider proposal that would place 2010 Super Bowl in New York, Page 30

A fine first weekend

Underdogs bring typical excitement to NCAA tournament

And so, after four bleary-eyed days and nights locked in inert stupor in front of the TV, the area below our waist having permanently melded with the recliner, we pause long enough to attempt to arise, however unsteadily, and shake free from the detritus of cellophane wrappers, crumpled soda cans and crumbs of foodstuffs utterly lacking in nutritional value, all the litter and leftover that has piled up during the first week of the Fine Madness.

The pause is welcome, for even the most rabid hoop-head needs the occasional oil change and lube job.

Bill Lyon



Besides, the Fine Madness will return in a few days. Not a long enough delay for withdrawal pangs to set in.

Sixteen left now. Just 16. The other 49 thrown out with the trash, unceremoniously, without sympathy. They know how it works — everyone gets one chance, and only one. No exception. No exemption.

"The finality of it," said Oklahoma coach, Kelvin Sampson, sighing. "You have to play good, or else... the finality of it."

His team was a No. 3 seed. It didn't play good enough. The consequence was the ultimate finality. The Sooners were dismissed by Utah. The Sooners have lots of marquee company on the ride back home.

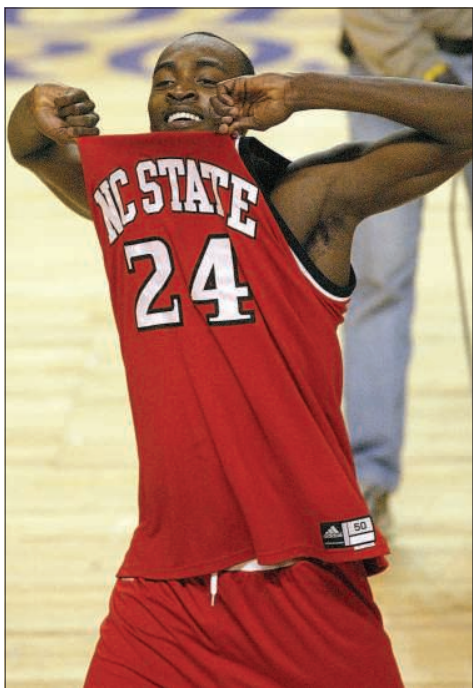
Two No. 2 seeds were bounced — Wake Forest and UConn. Three No. 3 seeds didn't make it through the first week — Gonzaga and Kansas joining Oklahoma. And three No. 4 seeds never got to the next level — Syracuse, Boston College and Florida.

Quite an impressive body count. Of the top 16 seeds, half were eliminated. At first blush, it seems more than the usual quota.

But then it always seems that way, doesn't it? Because every spring, without fail, early rocks are thrown into the office pool, and the ripples of consequence spread far and wide. Your early-round picks should always include an underdog or three; the trick, of course, is picking the right one.

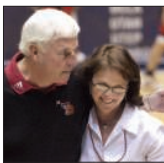
Upsets are the appealing staple of the Fine Madness. That, after all, is the enduring charm of it, that the only certainty is the uncertainty. This is the one event in which it is guaranteed that some of the Big Boys are going to come crashing down, and sooner rather than later. No Sweet 16 has ever included all four No. 1 through No. 4 seeds. Never. And won't ever, either.

SEE FINE ON PAGE 26



CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/KRT

N.C. State's Julius Hodge converted a three-point play with 4.3 seconds remaining to lift the Wolfpack to a 65-62 victory over defending national champion Connecticut on Sunday.



Texas Tech coach Bob Knight, left, had his wife Karen brought down from the stands to the court after his team upset Gonzaga in the second round so he could publicly recognize her for her contributions to the team.



Rob Thomas (2) and the Bucknell Bison fell to Wisconsin in the second round Sunday night after upsetting Kansas in the first round Friday night. Bucknell became the first team from the Patriot League to win a game in the NCAA tournament.

More NCAA coverage inside:
Krzyzewski collects record 66th victory in men's tourney
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Lady Vols' Summitt ties Smith for most career NCAA victories
Page 25



Pat Summitt

Edwards jumping for joy after sweeping weekend Busch Series, Nextel Cup races at Atlanta
Page 28



LeBron becomes youngest player in NBA history to score 50, but Cavs lose ninth of last 12
Page 31



Cavaliers try to stop slide down playoff standings by firing Silas as coach
Page 31